

RANA PRATAP

Disdaining even the comfort of a bed, the valiant Rana Pratap waged a single-minded, life-long war against the mighty Mughal conquerors. His Rajput pride instilled a deep respect in the enemy. They realised that huge armies and sophisticated weapons are but aids, and that there can be no substitute for raw courage on the battlefield.

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BRAVEHEARTS



RANA PRATAP

HE FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

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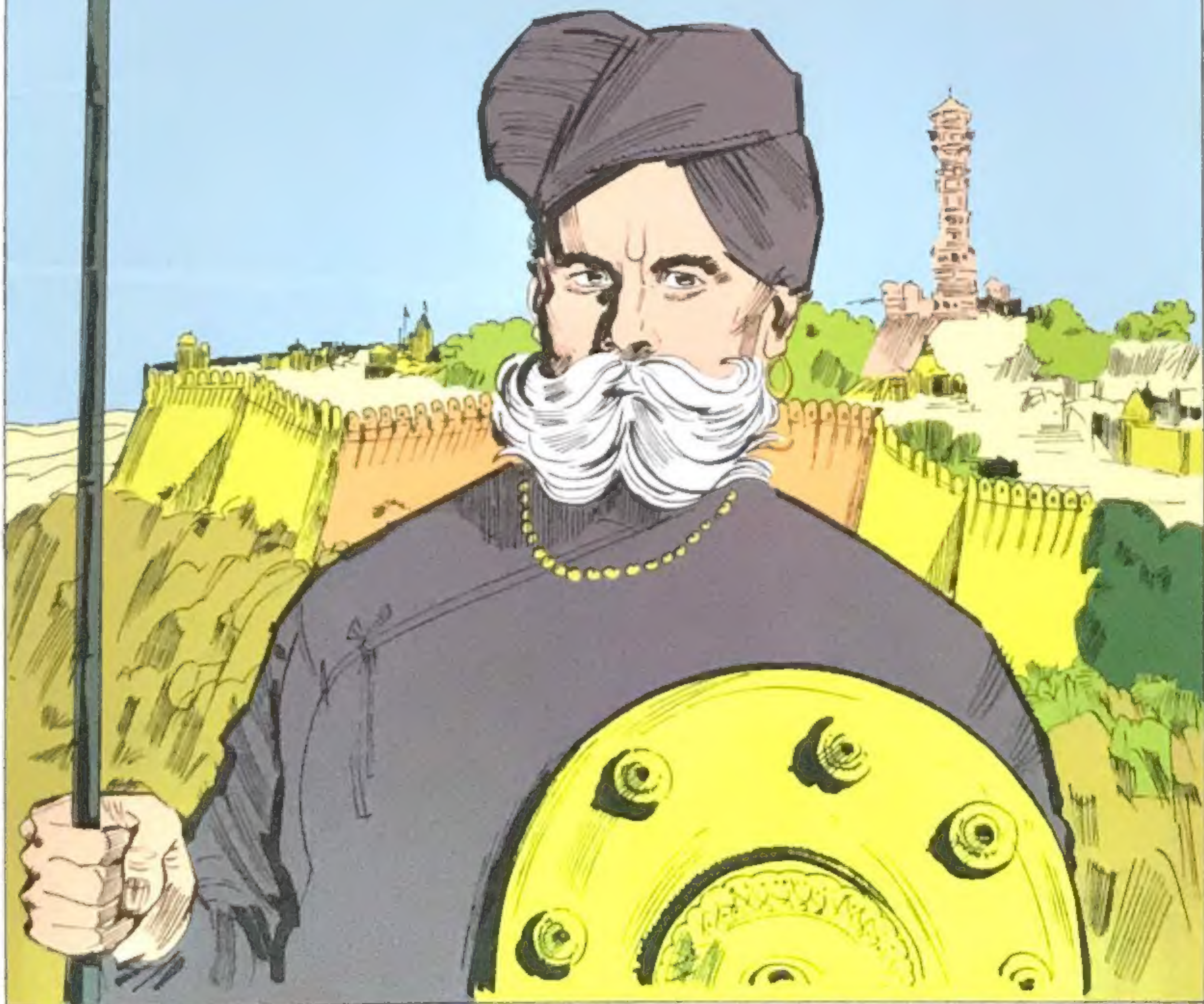


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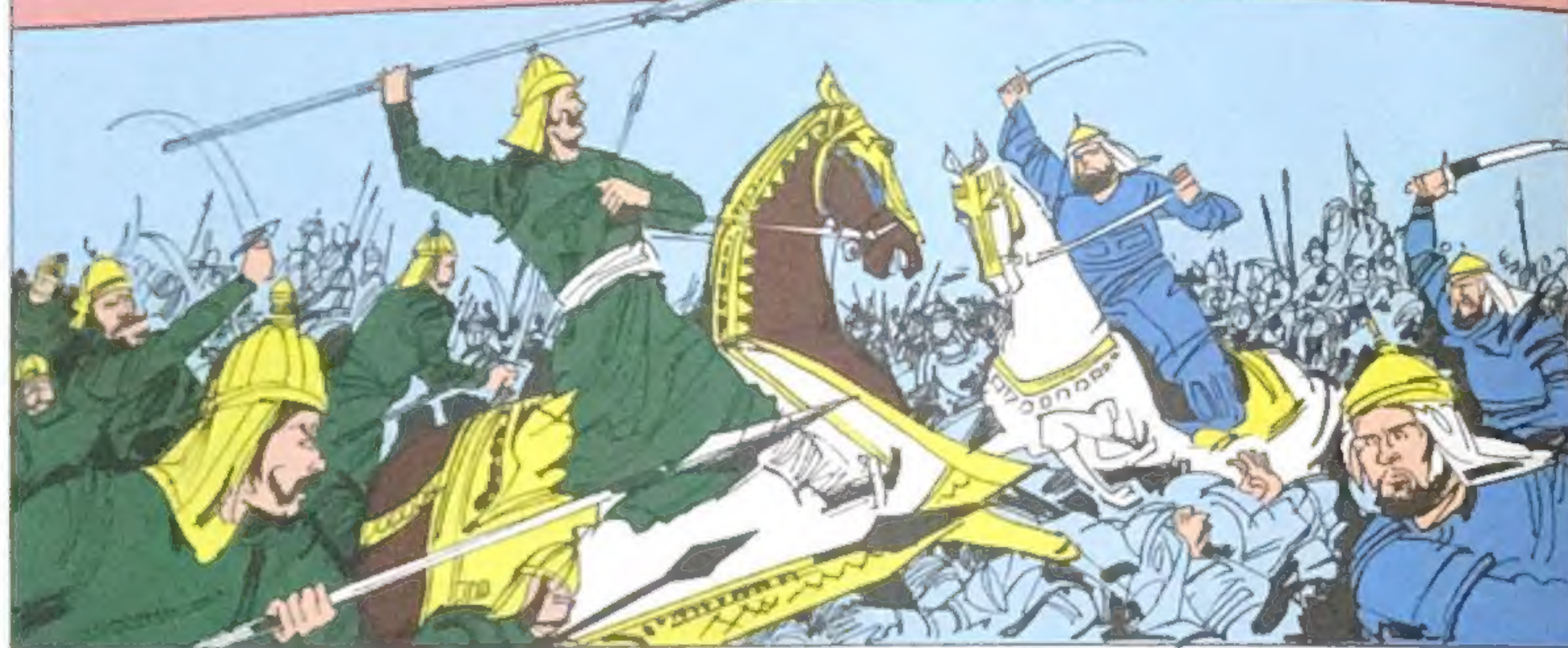
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Rana Pratap



RAJASTHAN IN WESTERN INDIA WAS THE HOME OF THE VALIANT RAJPUTS.

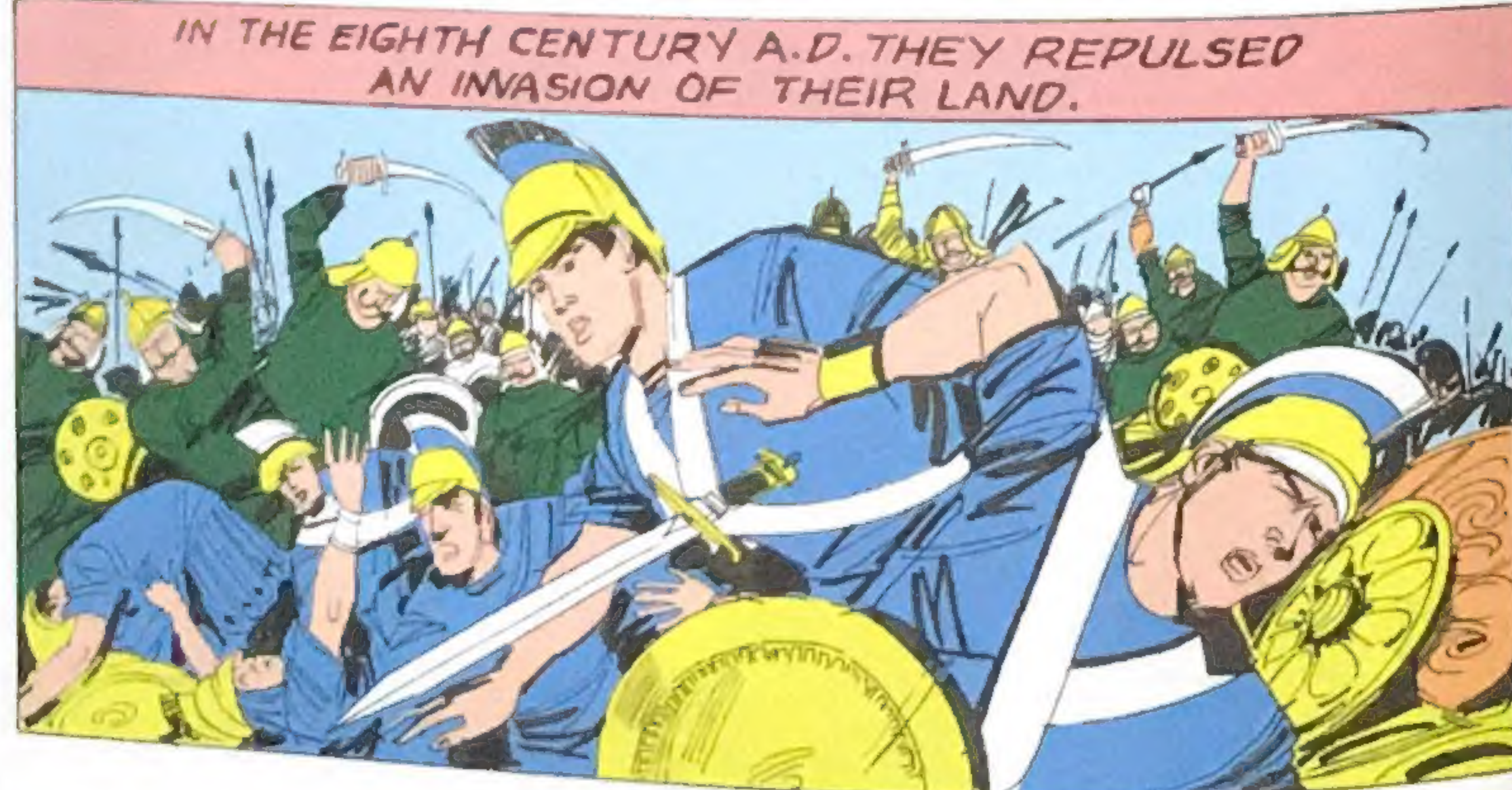
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THEY HAD REPEATEDLY FOUGHT FOR THE HONOUR OF THE COUNTRY.



BUT THE RAJPUTS OF CHITTOR SURPASSED ALL, IN DEEDS OF BRAVERY AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE.



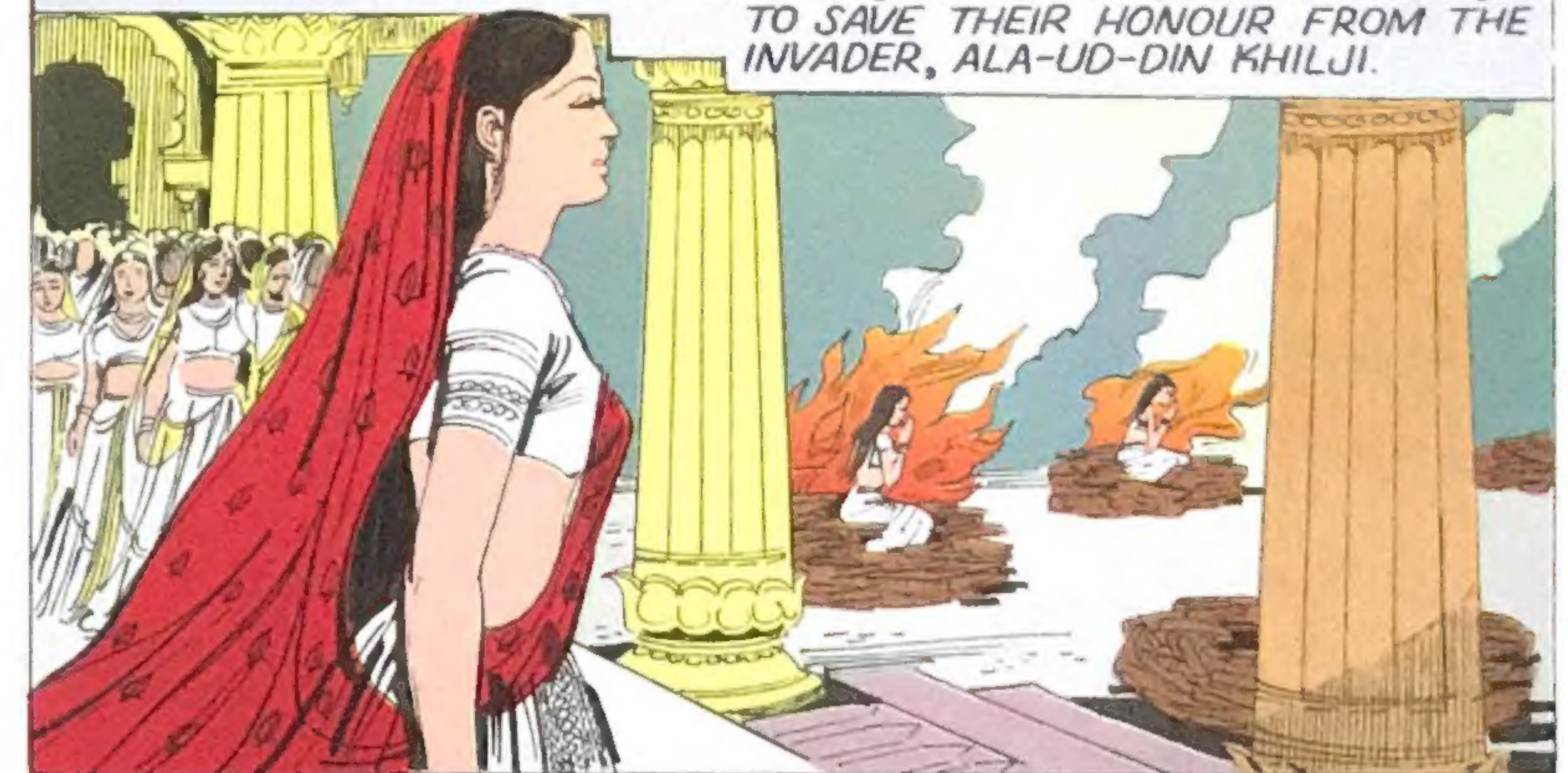
IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D. THEY REPULSED AN INVASION OF THEIR LAND.



AND THEIR WOMEN WERE NO LESS HEROIC. CHITTOR'S QUEEN KARMA DEVI HAD DEFEATED THE POWERFUL HORDES OF QUTAB-UD-DIN.



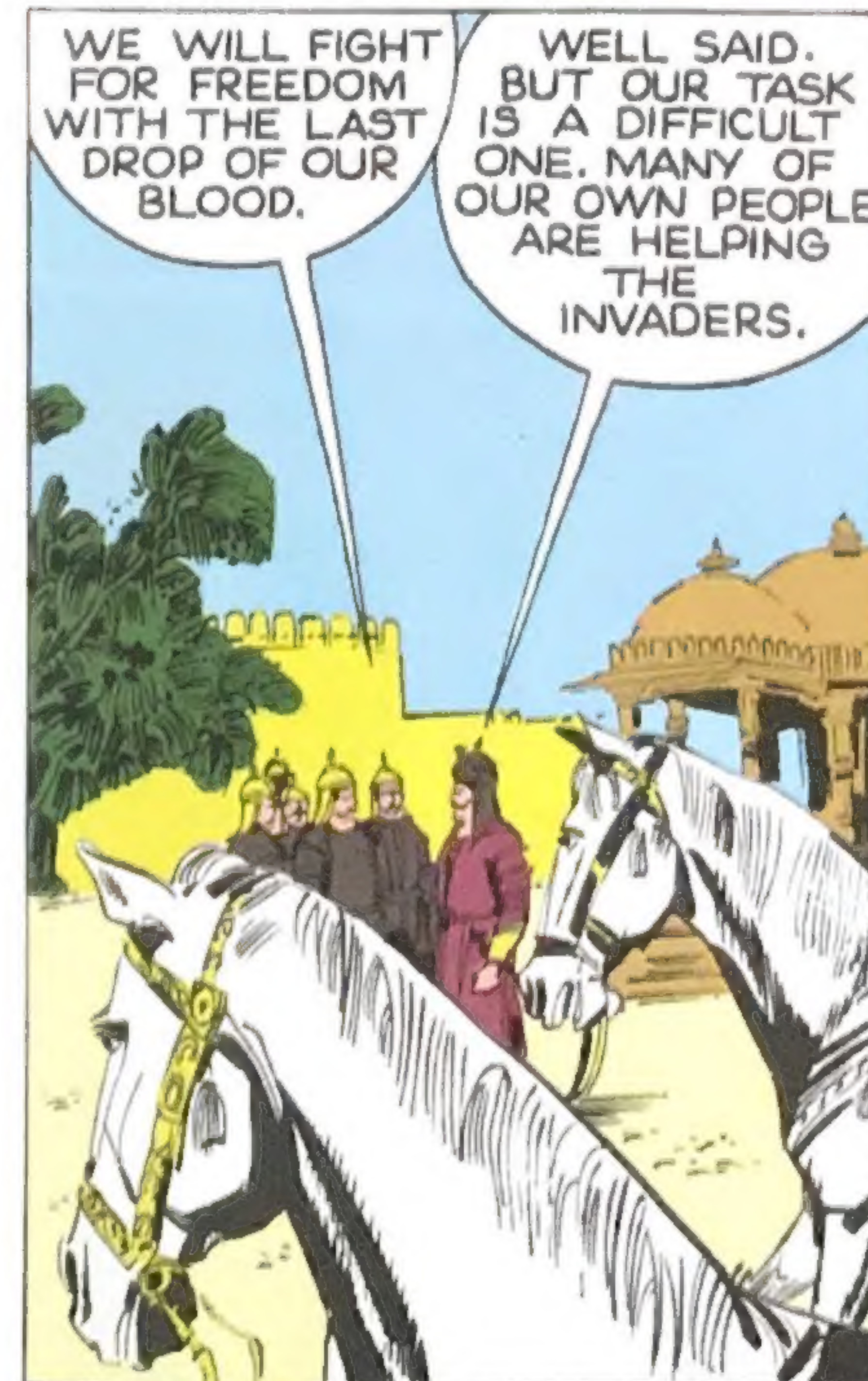
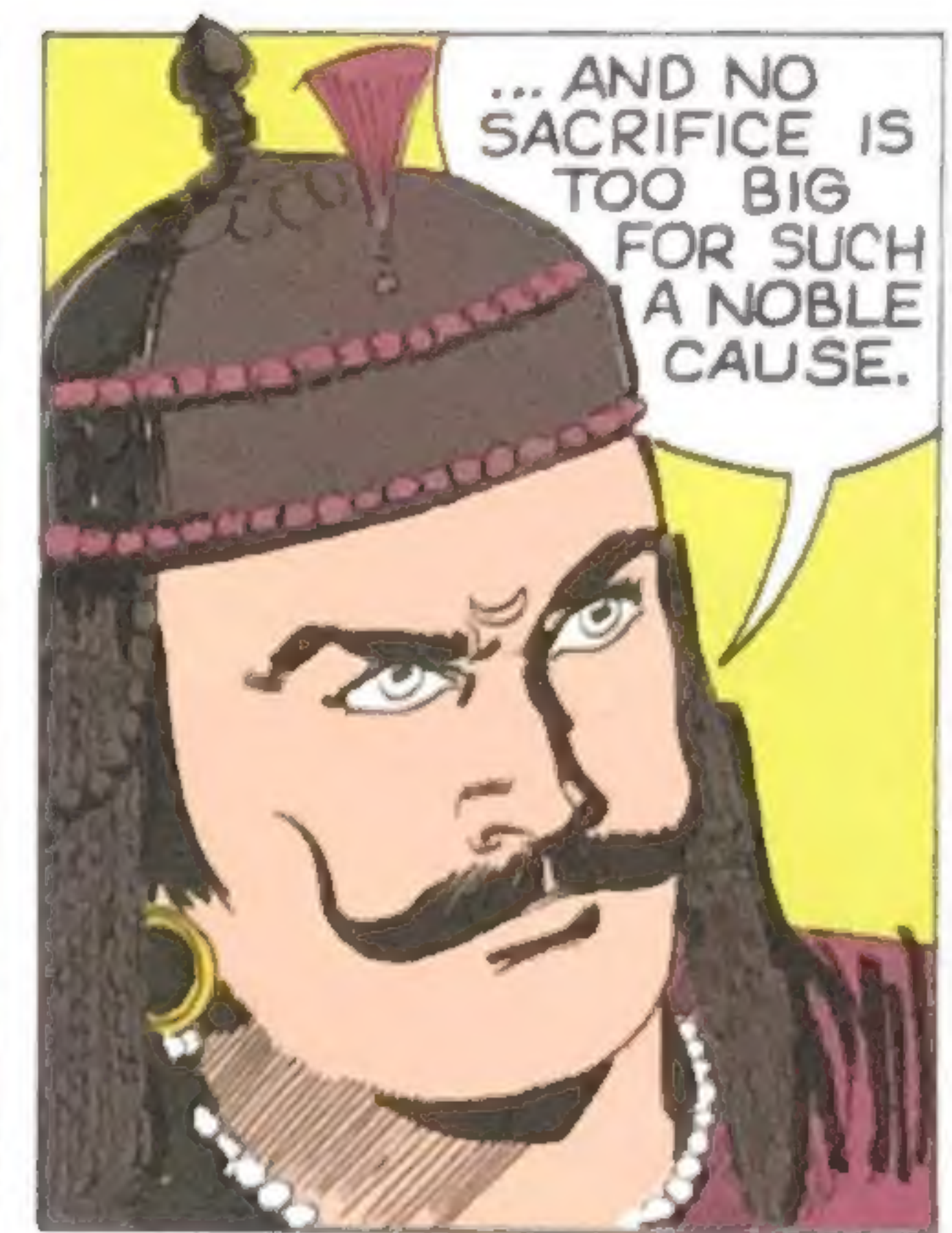
IN THE 14TH CENTURY, QUEEN PADMINI AND HUNDREDS OF RAJPUT WOMEN OF CHITTOR PERFORMED SATI, AN ACT OF SELF-IMMOLATION TO SAVE THEIR HONOUR FROM THE INVADER, ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI.



THE MUGHALS WERE THE FIRST INVADERS WHO SUCCEEDED IN OCCUPYING CHITTOR.

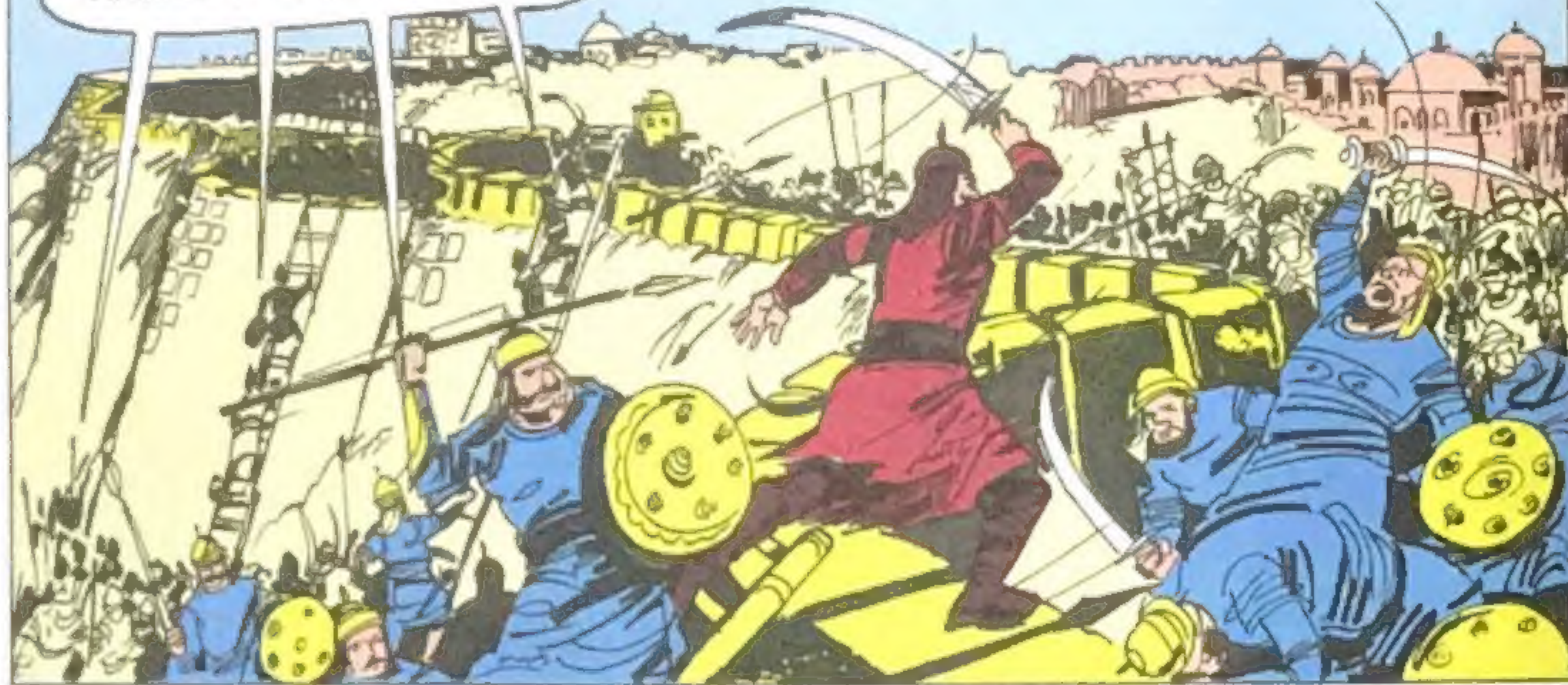


ALMOST ALL MAJOR RAJPUT KINGS HAD SURRENDERED TO THE ENEMY BUT RANA PRATAP, THE KING OF CHITTOR, REFUSED TO.



50. A HANDFUL OF RANA PRATAP'S WARRIORS ATTACKED A FORT, UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION, NEAR CHITTOR.

HAR HAR MAHADEV!



JAI CHANDI!



FINALLY THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE DEFEATED.

WELL DONE, MY MEN! THE FORT IS OURS.

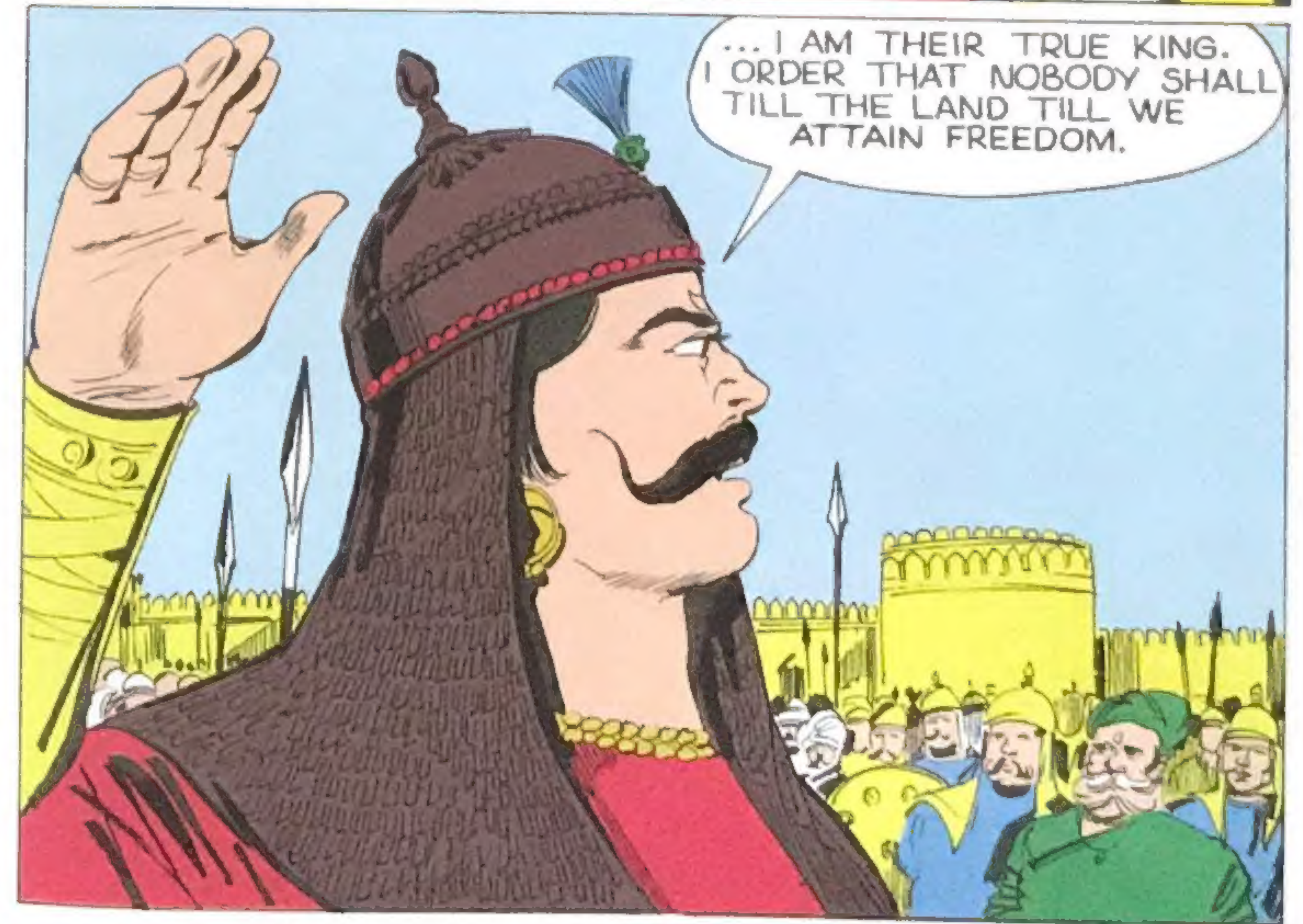


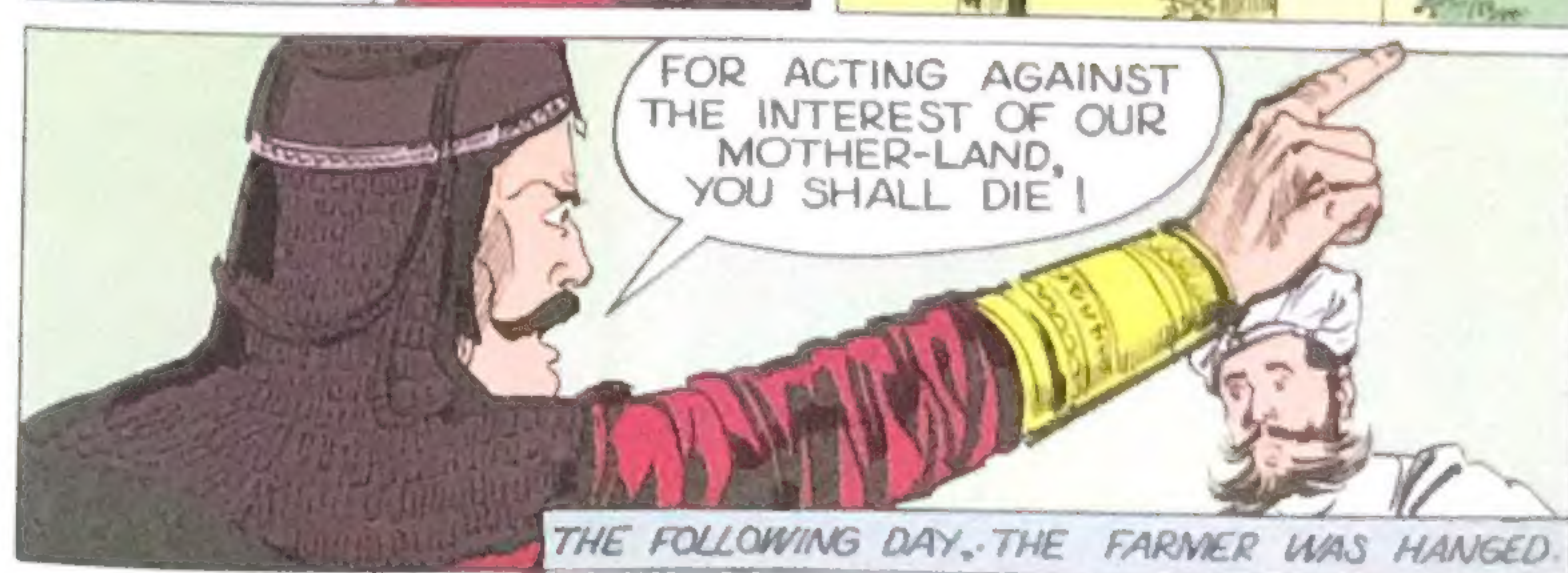
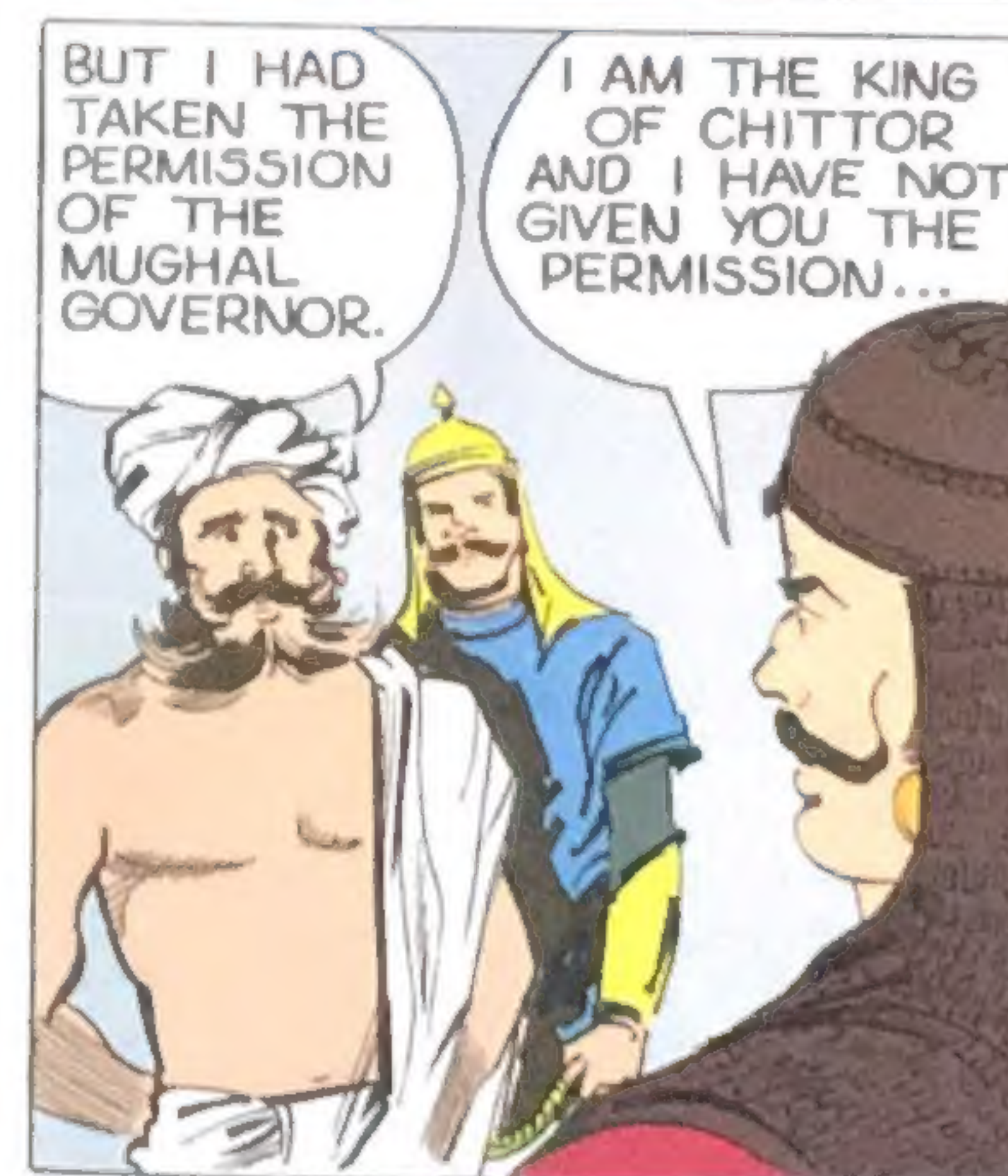
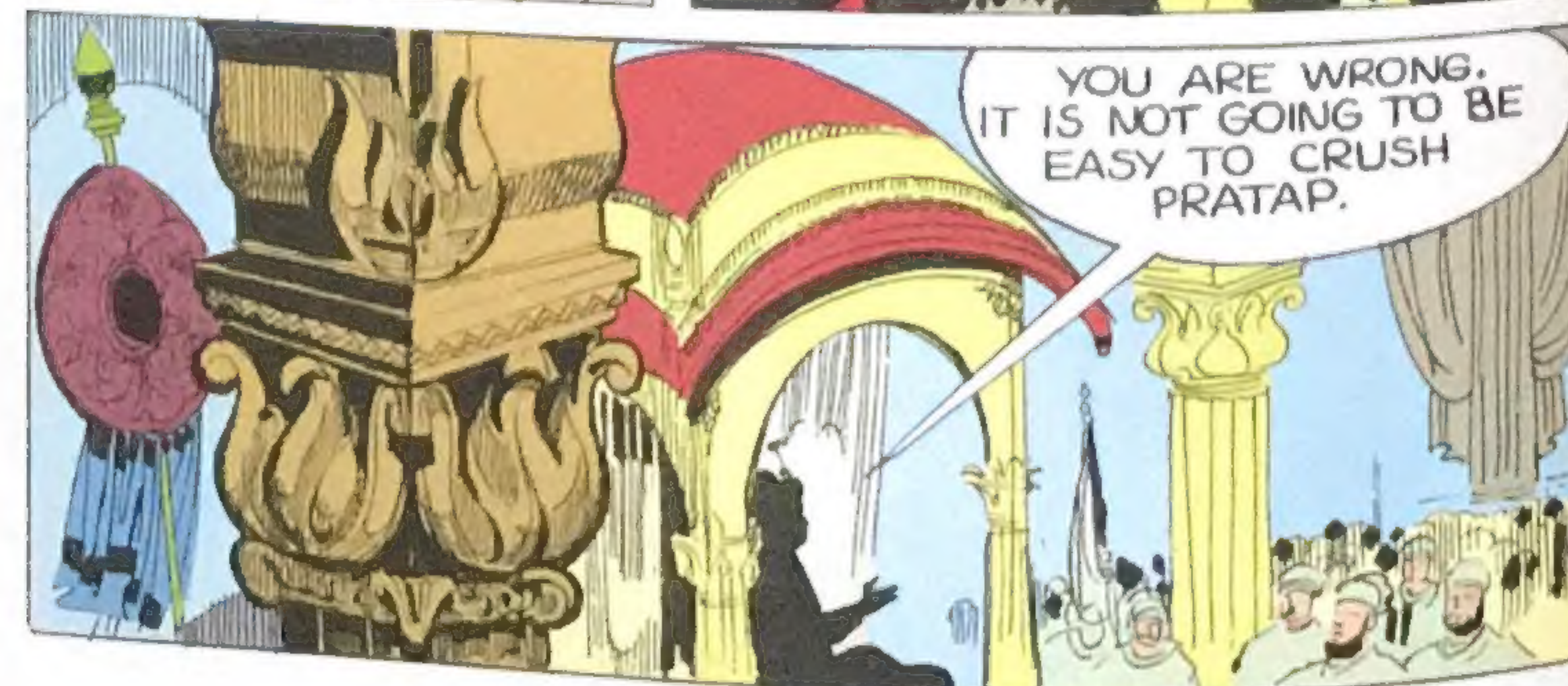
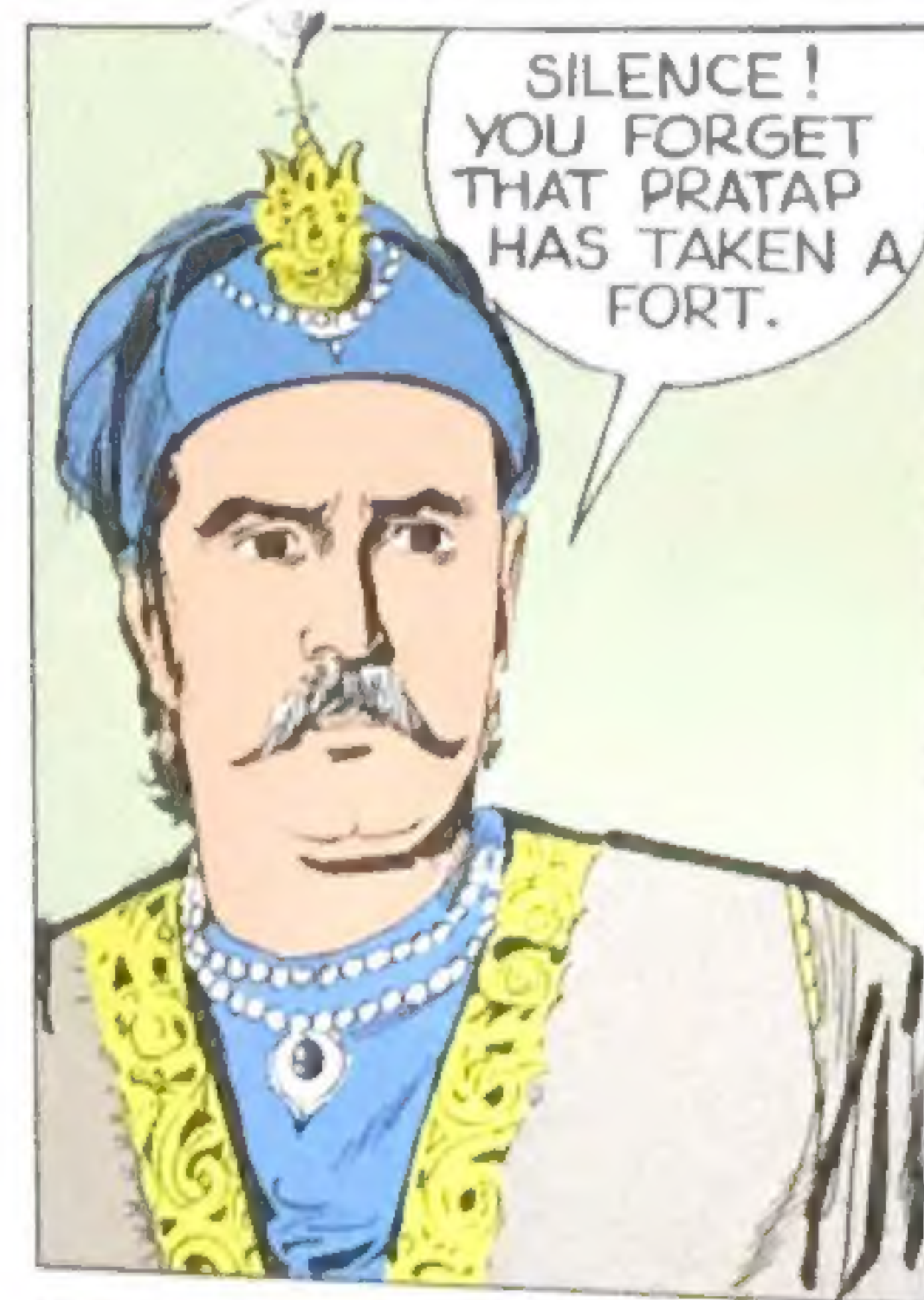
THIS VICTORY BROUGHT MANY RAJPUTS FROM CHITTOR TO THE FORT TO JOIN PRATAP'S FORCES.

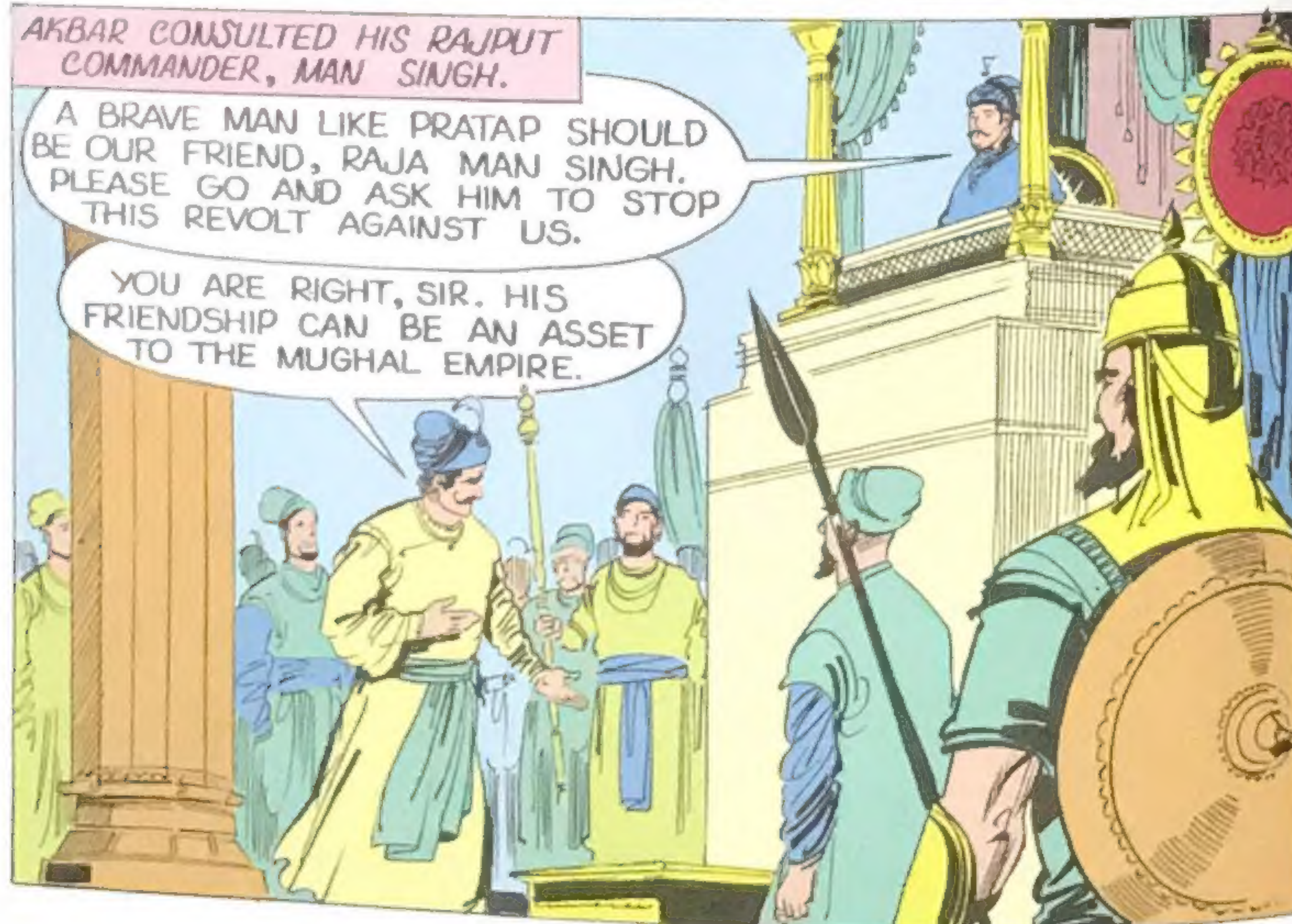
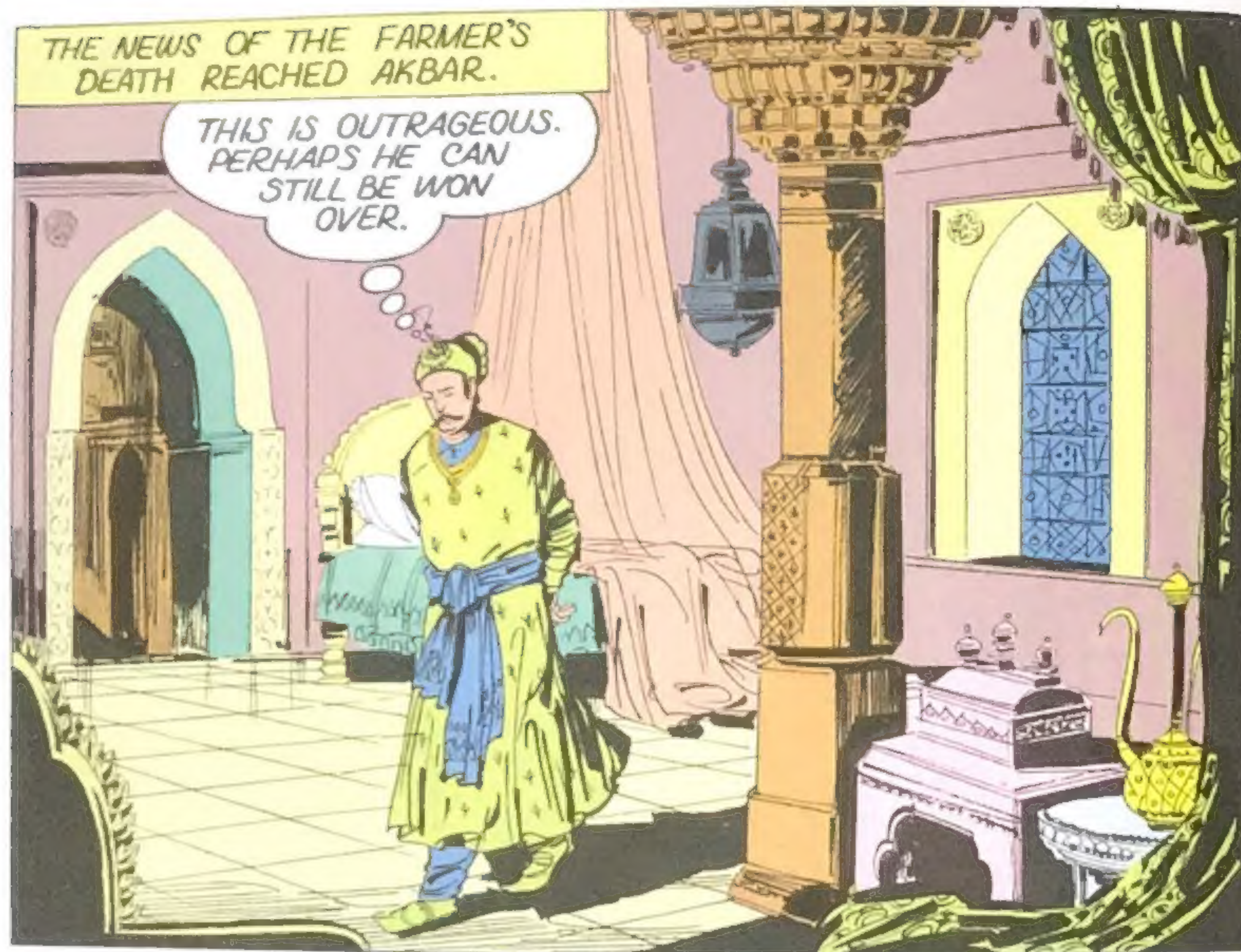
TELL THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR THAT THOUGH THEY ARE RULED BY THE INVADERS...



... I AM THEIR TRUE KING. I ORDER THAT NOBODY SHALL TILL THE LAND TILL WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.



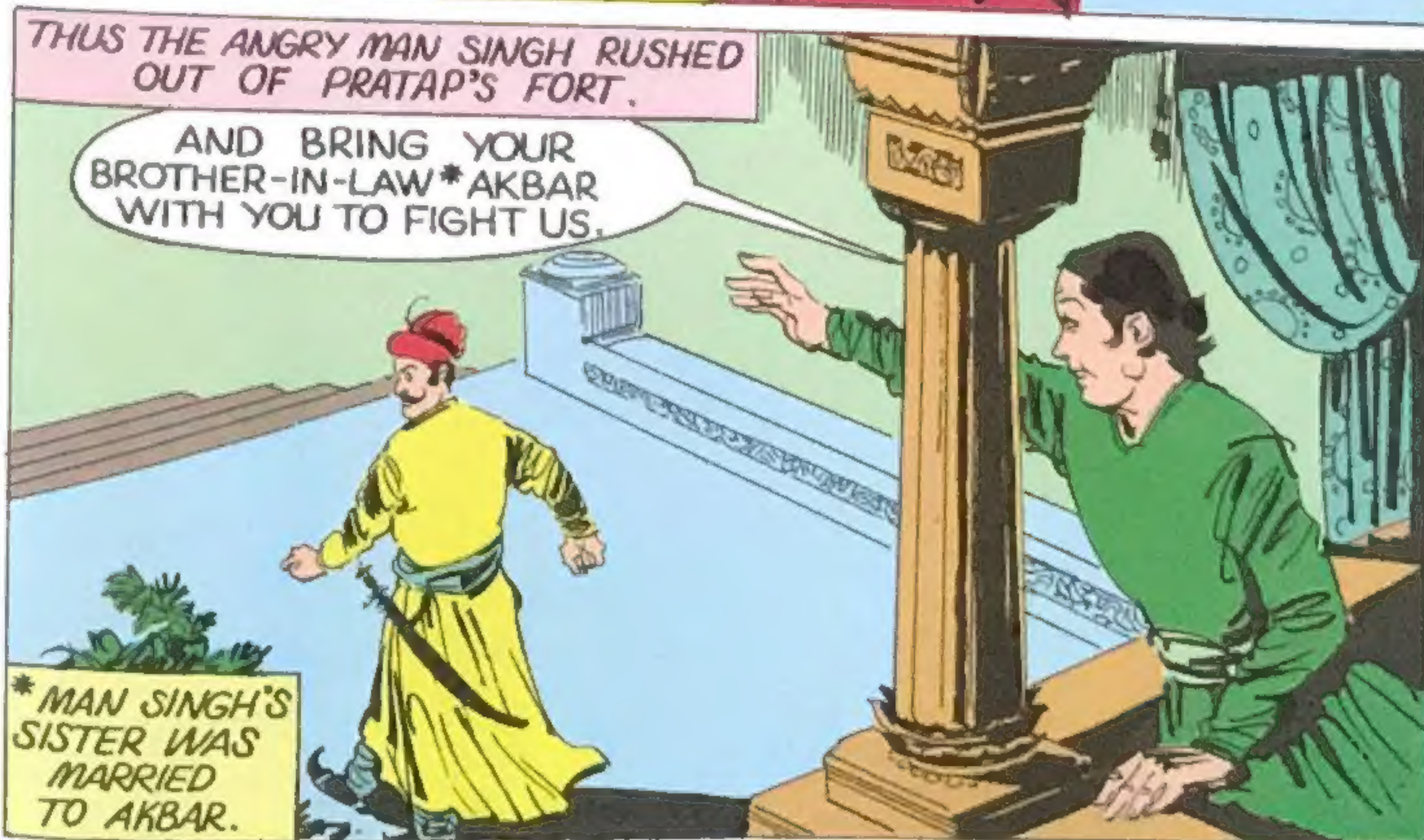
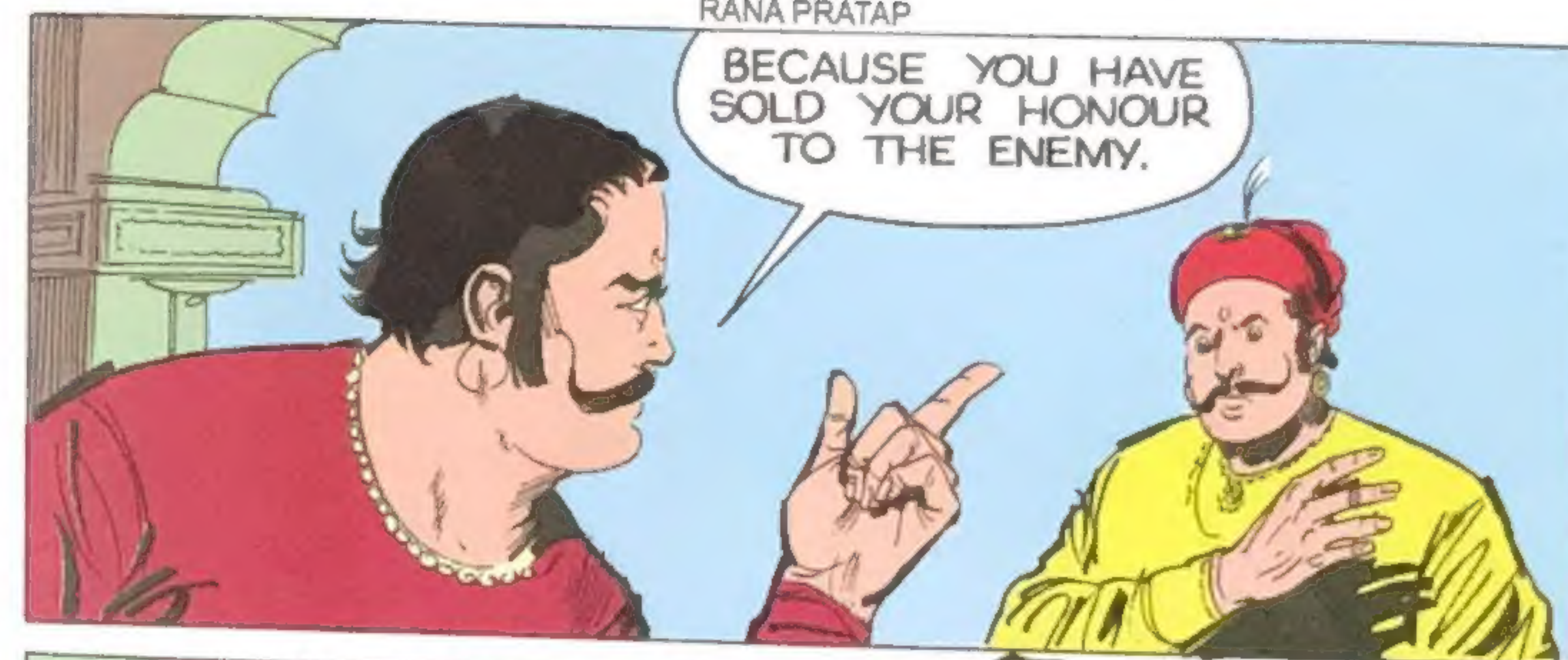




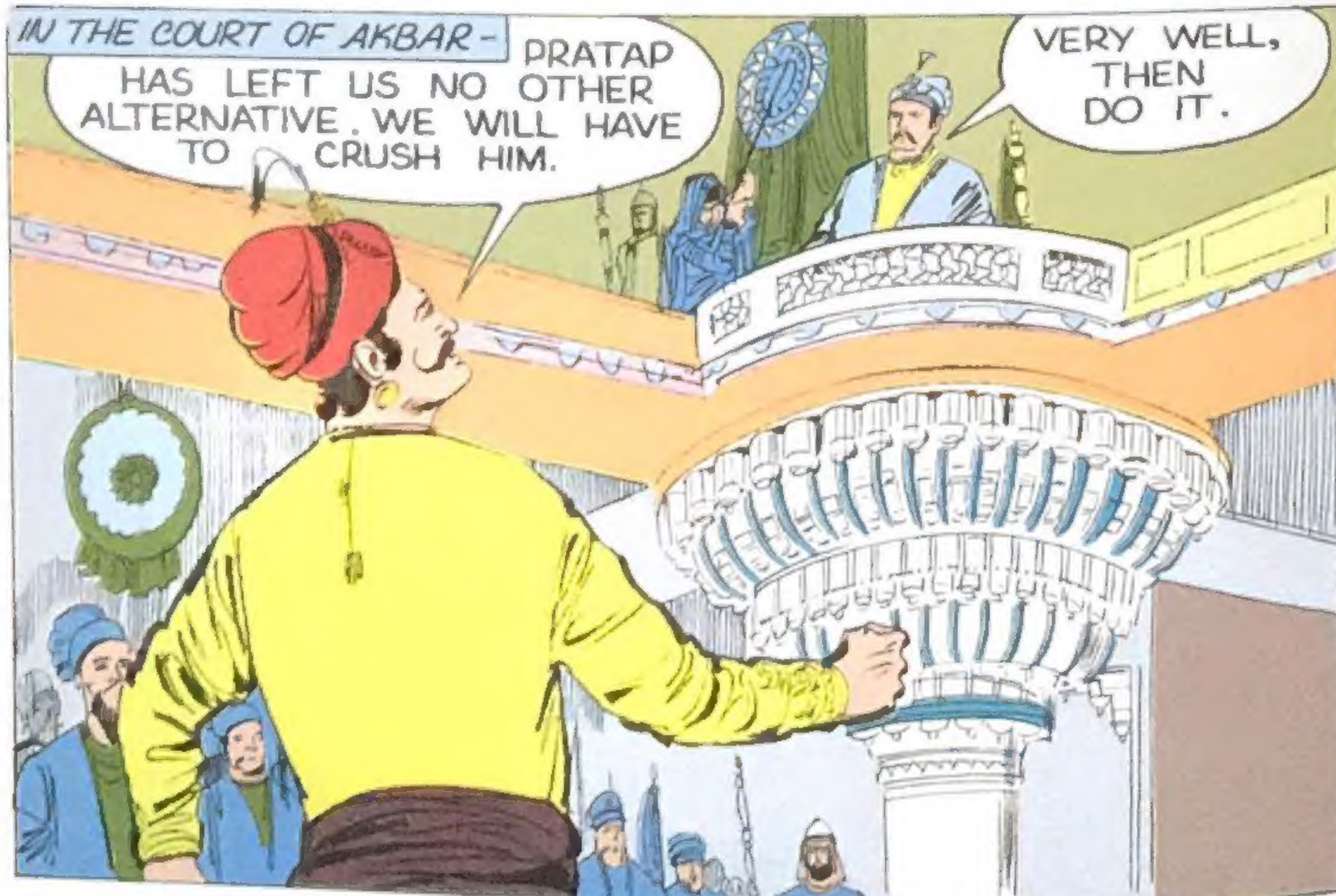
RANA PRATAP ENTERED WITH HIS SON, AMAR SINGH.



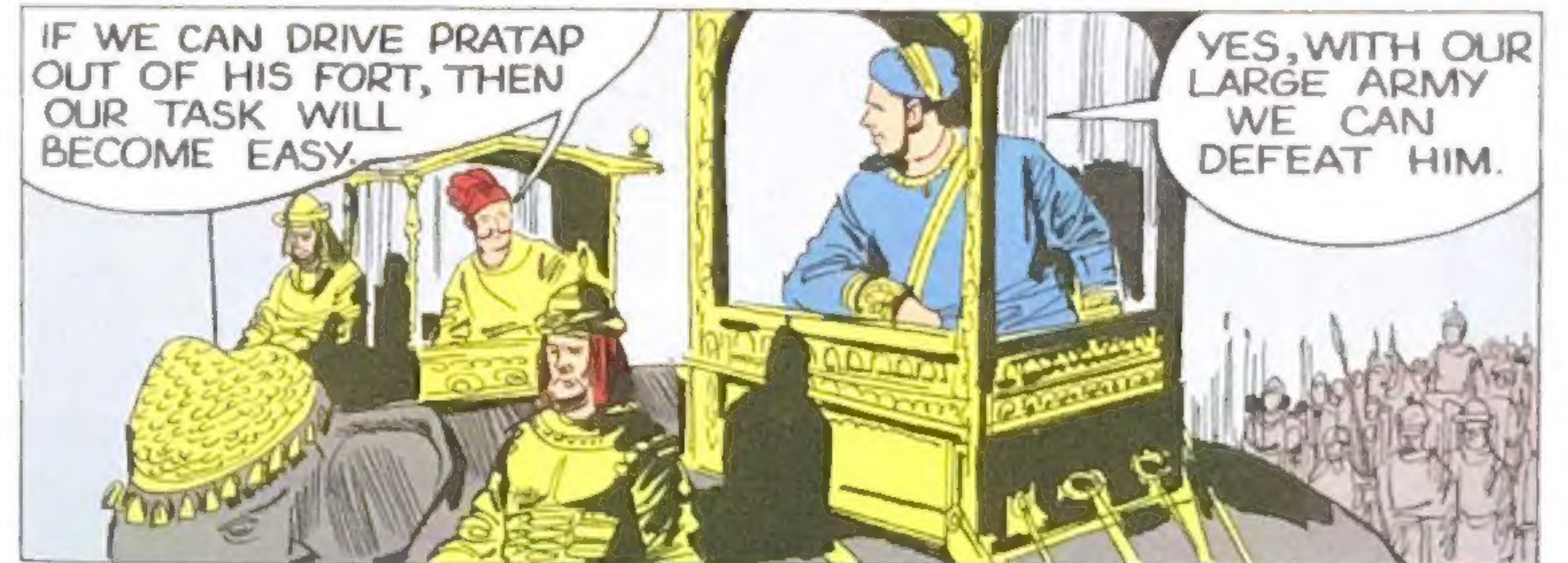
RANA PRATAP



SOON AFTER MAN SINGH LEFT, RANA PRATAP ATTACKED A CAMP OF MUGHAL FORCES AND KILLED MANY OF THEM.

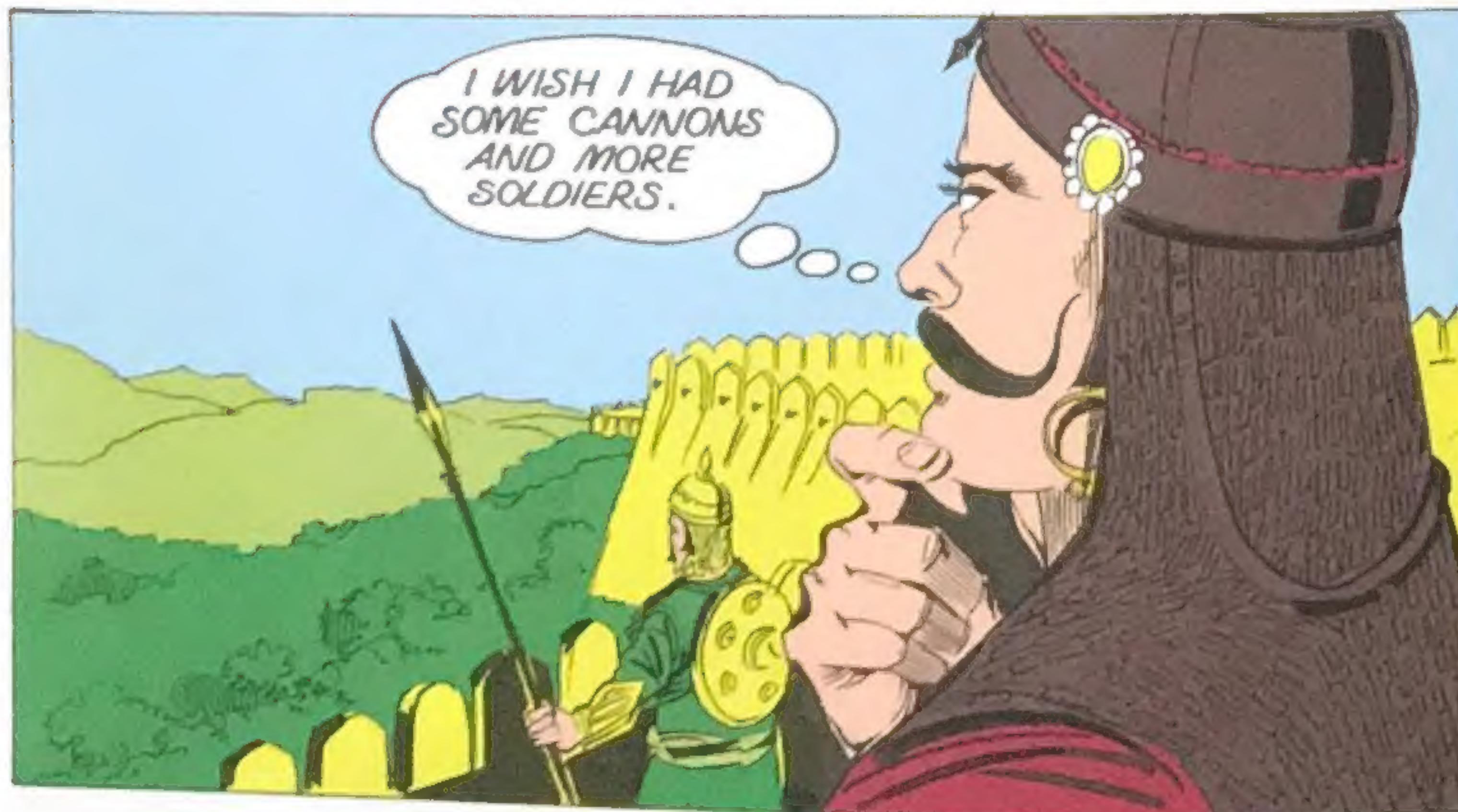


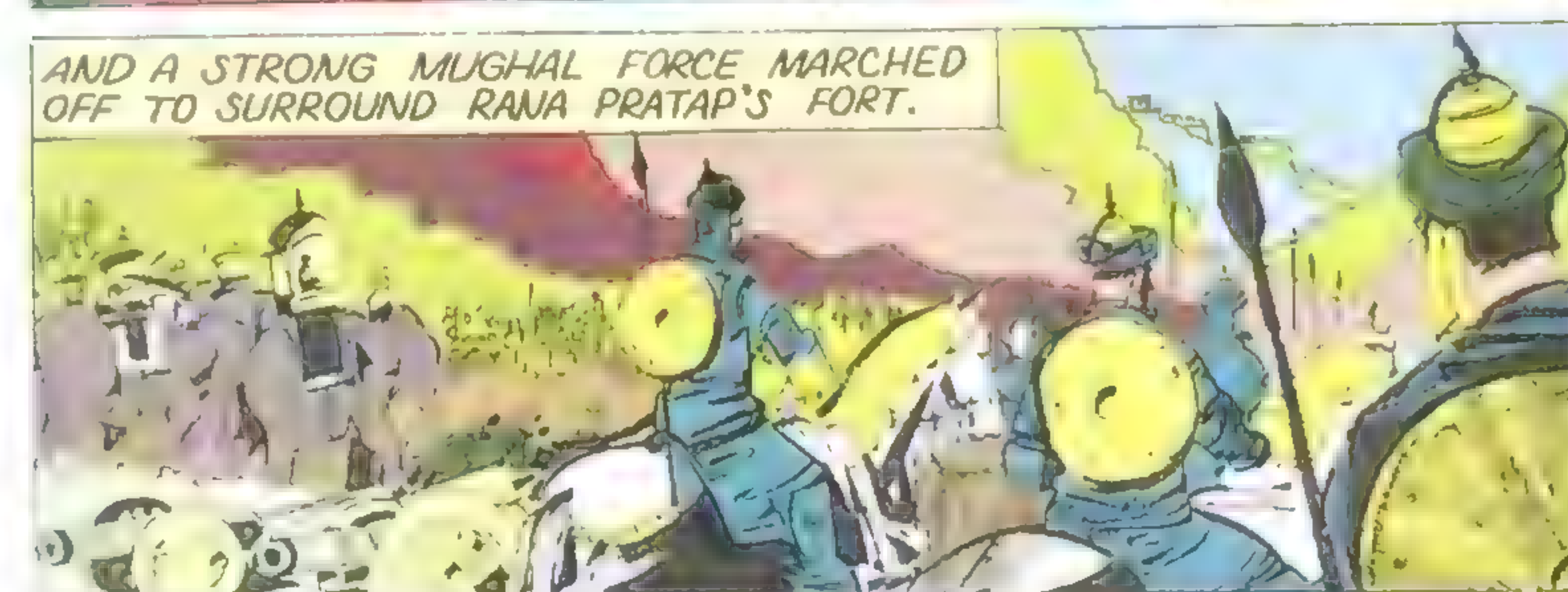
SOON MAN SINGH AND PRINCE SALIM SET OUT WITH A HUGE ARMY.



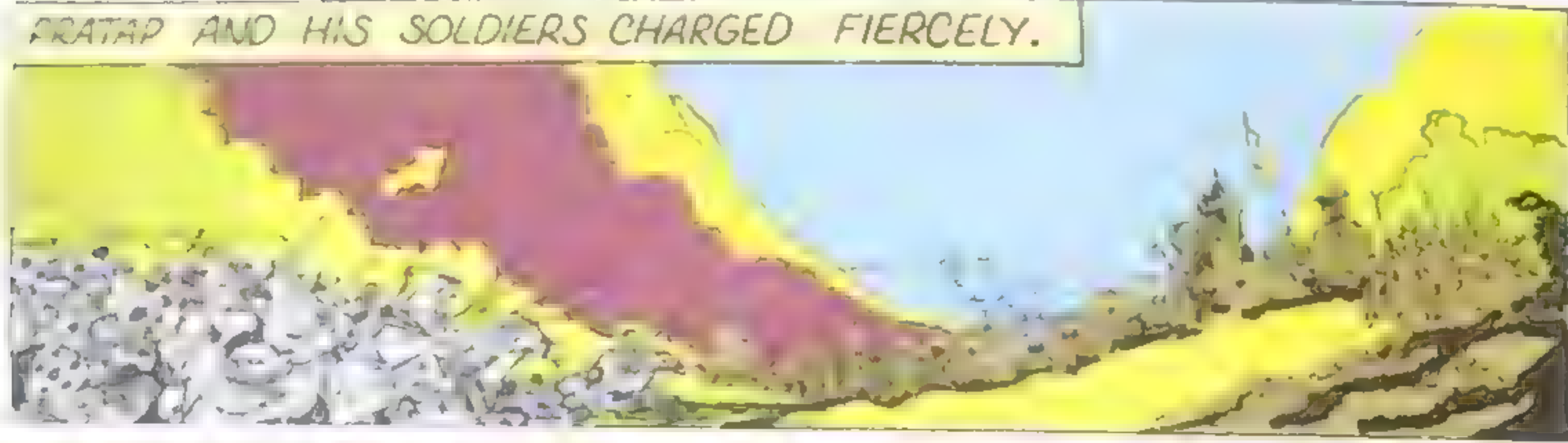
FINALLY AKBAR'S FORCES REACHED THE FAMOUS BATTLE-GROUND, HALDI-GHATI, SITUATED IN A NARROW VALLEY.



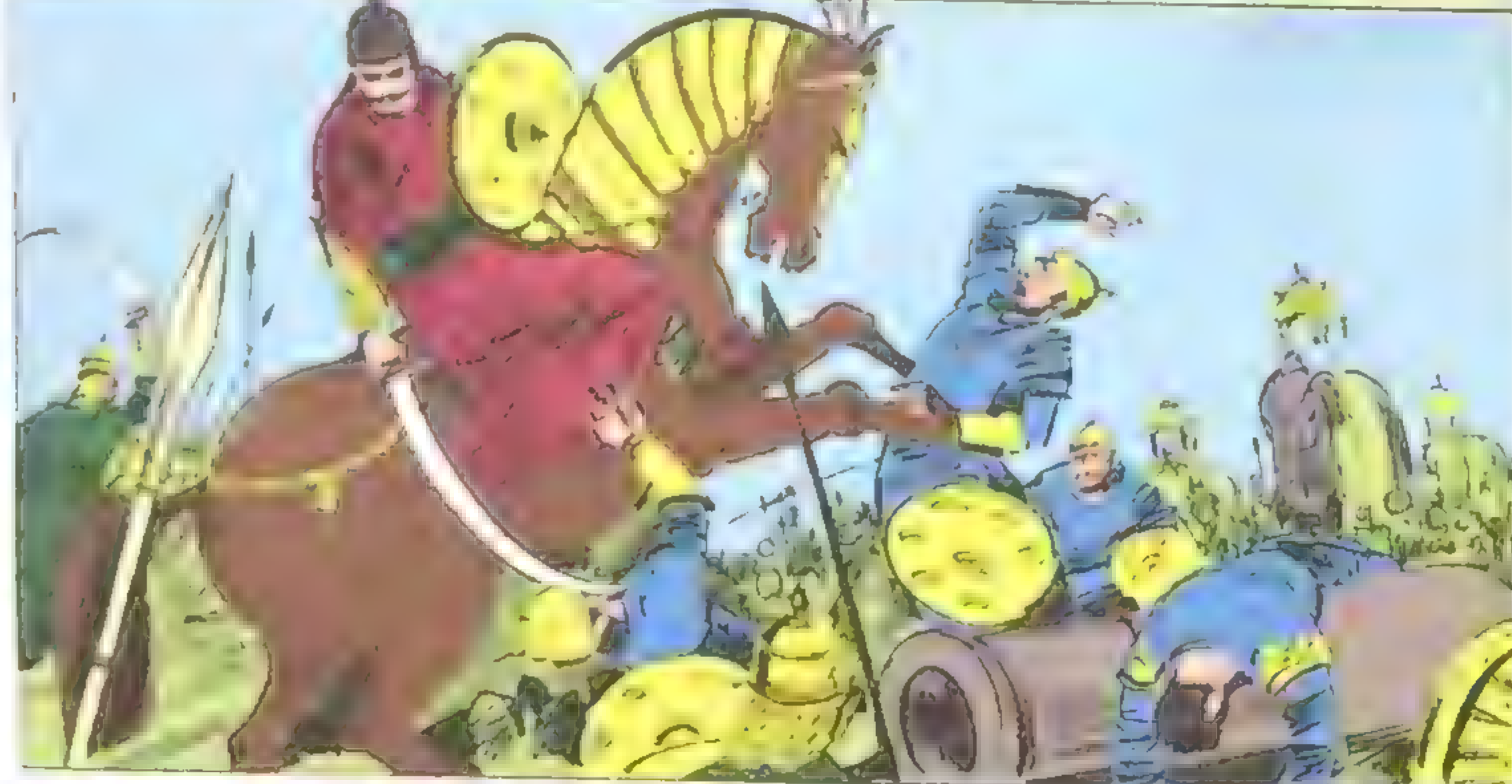




PRATAP AND HIS SOLDIERS CHARGED FIERCELY.



EVEN PRATAP'S FAITHFUL HORSE CHETAK PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.



THE MUGHAL FORCES
SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.



BUT JUST WHEN THE MUGHALS
STARTED TO LOSE, MORE OF THEIR
TROOPS ARRIVED.



IN THE BITTER FIGHTING
THAT FOLLOWED,
RANA PRATAP LOST 15,000 MEN.



BUT THE BATTLE CONTINUED.

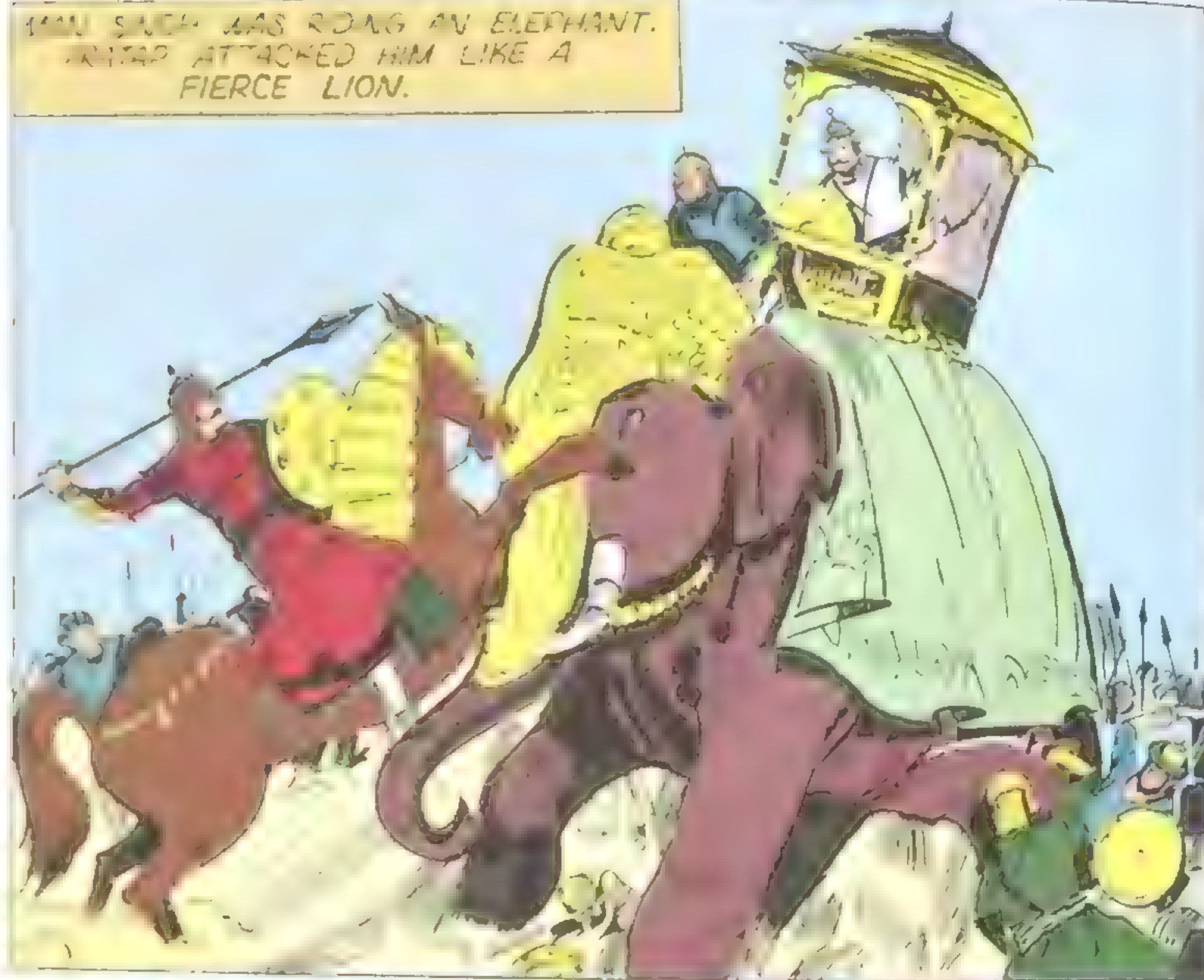
MAN SINGH IS AN ABLE
COMMANDER. IF HE IS
KILLED, HIS FORCES WILL
LOSE THEIR MORALE.



RANA PRATAP ADVANCED TOWARDS MAN SINGH.



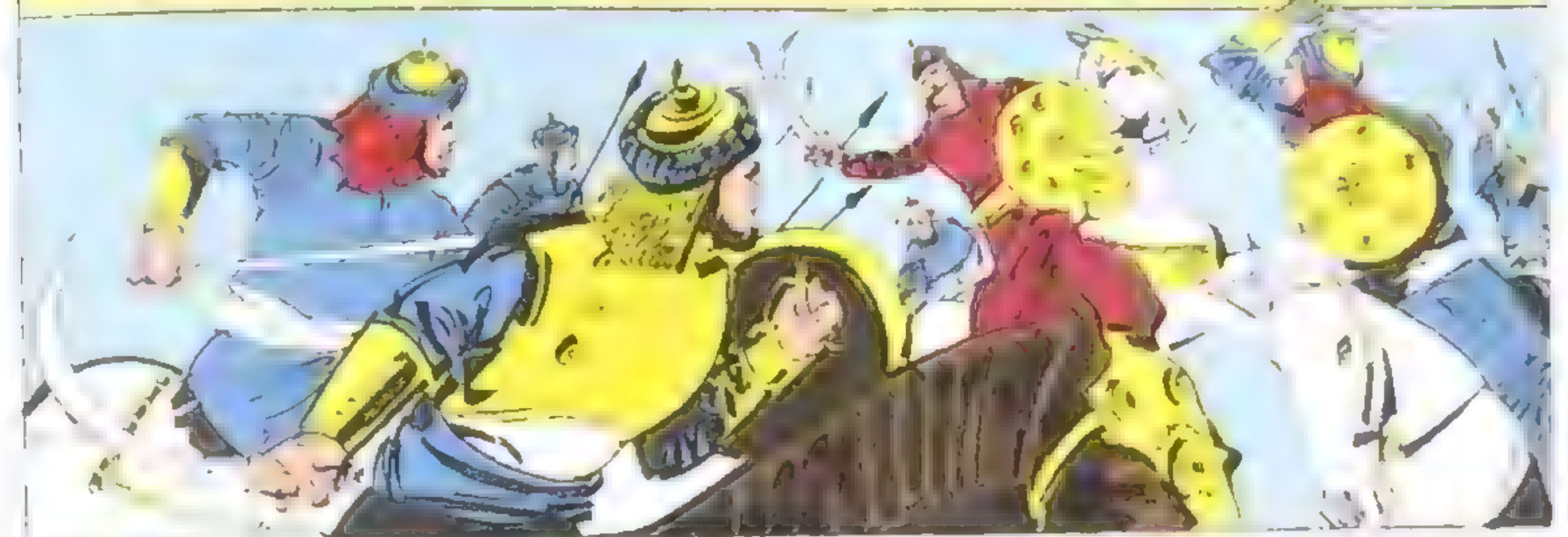
MAN SINGH WAS RIDING AN ELEPHANT.
PRATAP ATTACKED HIM LIKE A
FIERCE LION.



PRATAP THREW HIS SPEAR AT MAN SINGH, BUT JUST THEN THE
ELEPHANT MOVED AND PRATAP MISSED HIS MARK. MAN SINGH WAS
SAVED.



MEANWHILE PRATAP WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMY SOLDIERS.



FINDING THEIR LEADER IN
DANGER, PRATAP'S FRIEND, MANA
AND A FEW SOLDIERS RUSHED
TO HIS RESCUE.



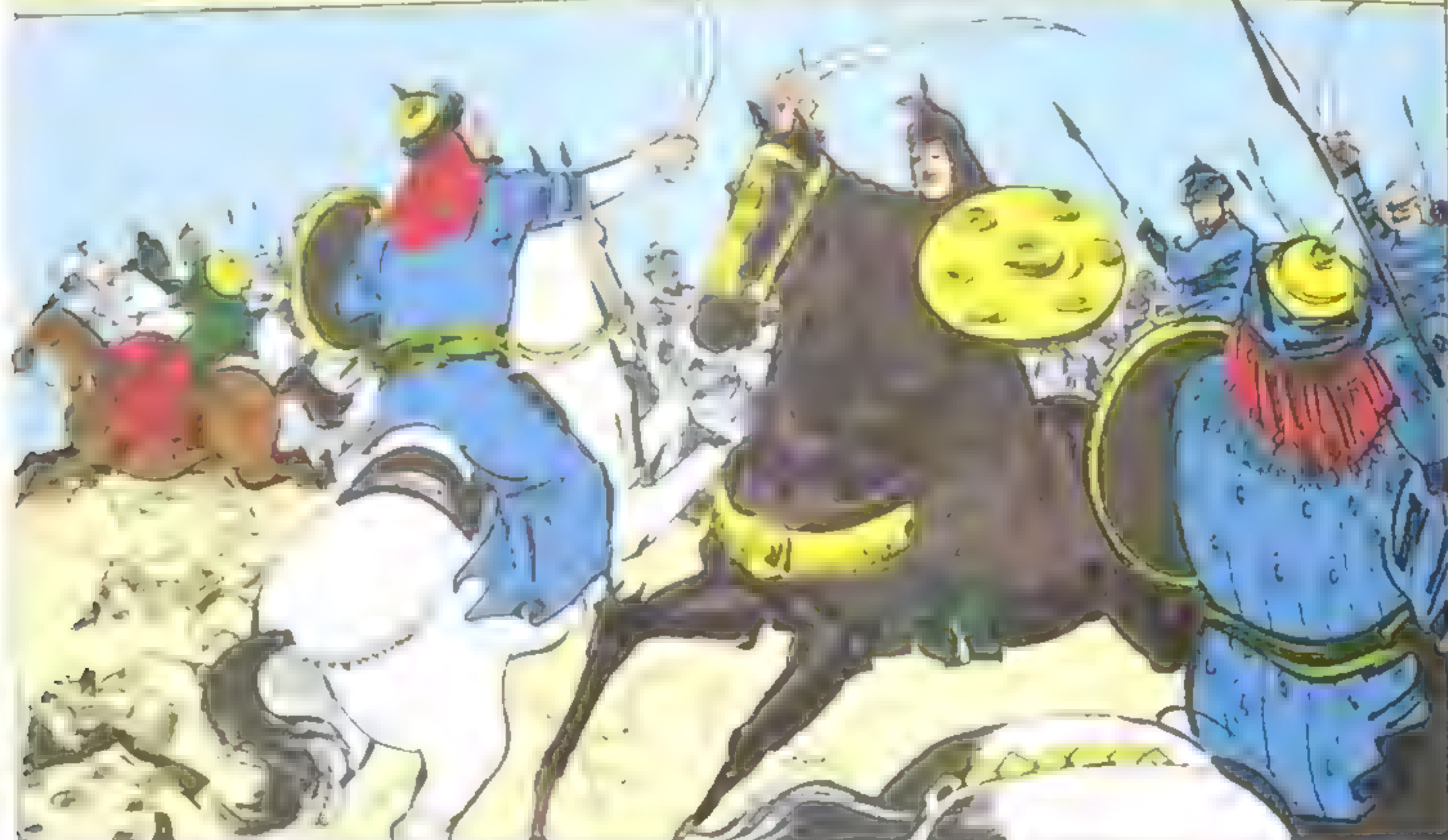
OUR RANA IS
WOUNDED. I MUST
SAVE HIM.



TO SAVE PRATAP, MANA PLACED PRATAP'S HELMET ON HIS OWN HEAD.



THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE FOOLED. THEY ATTACKED MANA, MISTAKING HIM FOR PRATAP. WHILE MANA FACED THE ENEMY, PRATAP WAS CARRIED AWAY BY HIS FAITHFUL HORSE, CHETAK.



SOME RAJPUT SOLDIERS RODE WITH CHETAK TO PROTECT THE UNCONSCIOUS RANA.



THE WOUNDED PRATAP WAS TAKEN TO A CAVE IN THE JUNGLES.



THOUGH PRATAP SURVIVED, HIS FAMILY HAD A HARD TIME. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT BUT WILD BERRIES AND ROOTS.

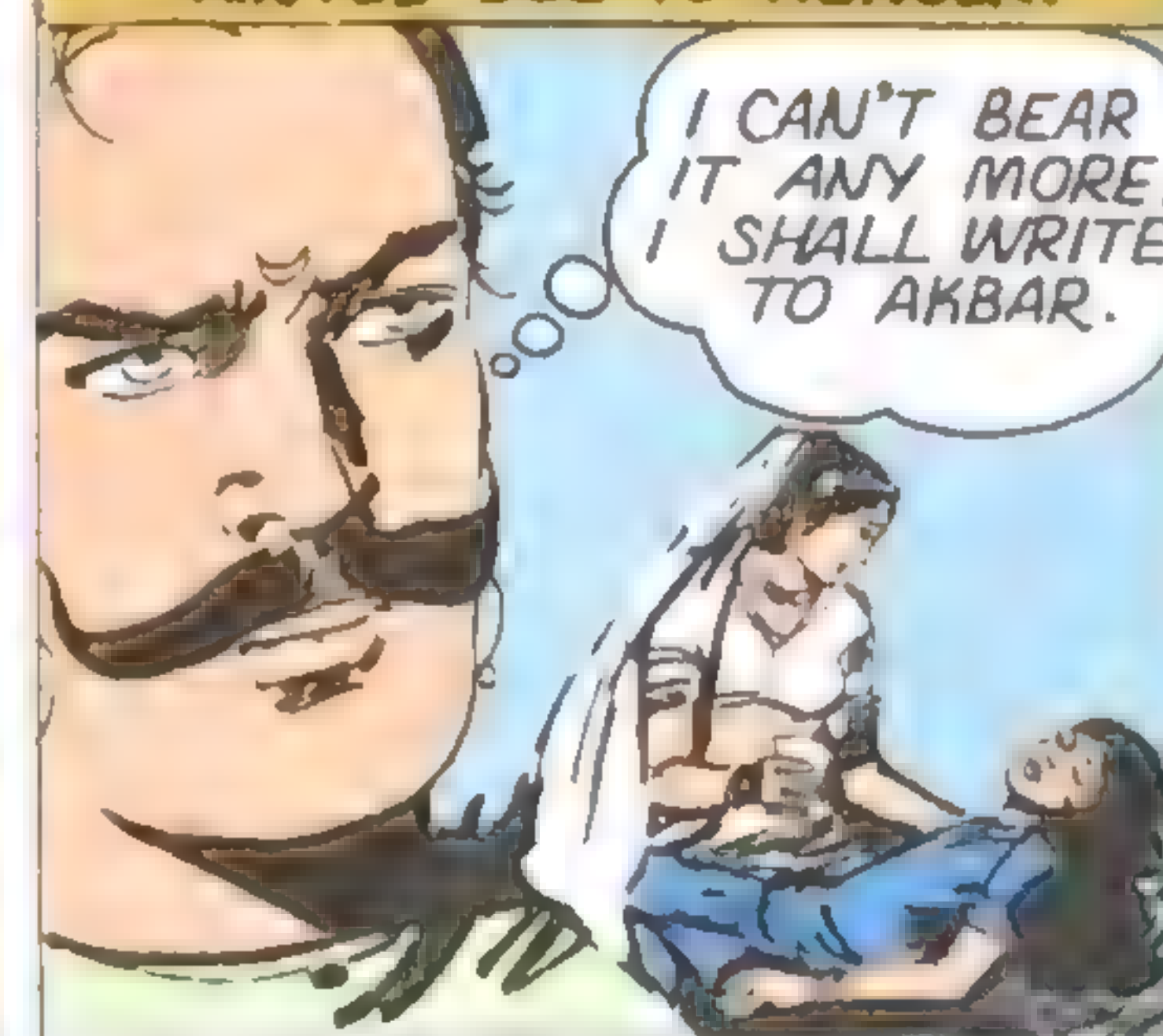


ONE DAY, WHEN PRATAP'S SON, AMAR SINGH, WAS EATING A DRY CHAPATI...



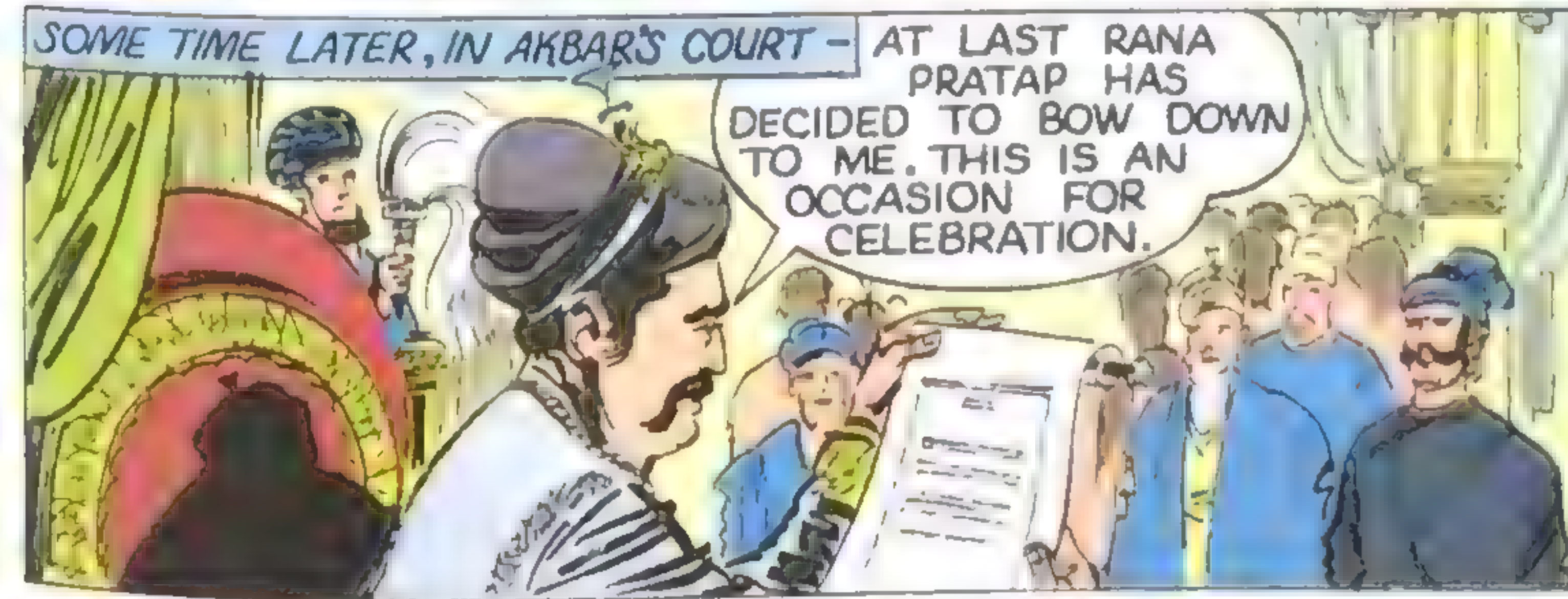
FATHER, THE CAT SNATCHED MY CHAPATI.

PRATAP'S DAUGHTER, WHO GAVE HER CHAPATI TO HER BROTHER, FAINTED DUE TO HUNGER.



I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY MORE. I SHALL WRITE TO AKBAR.

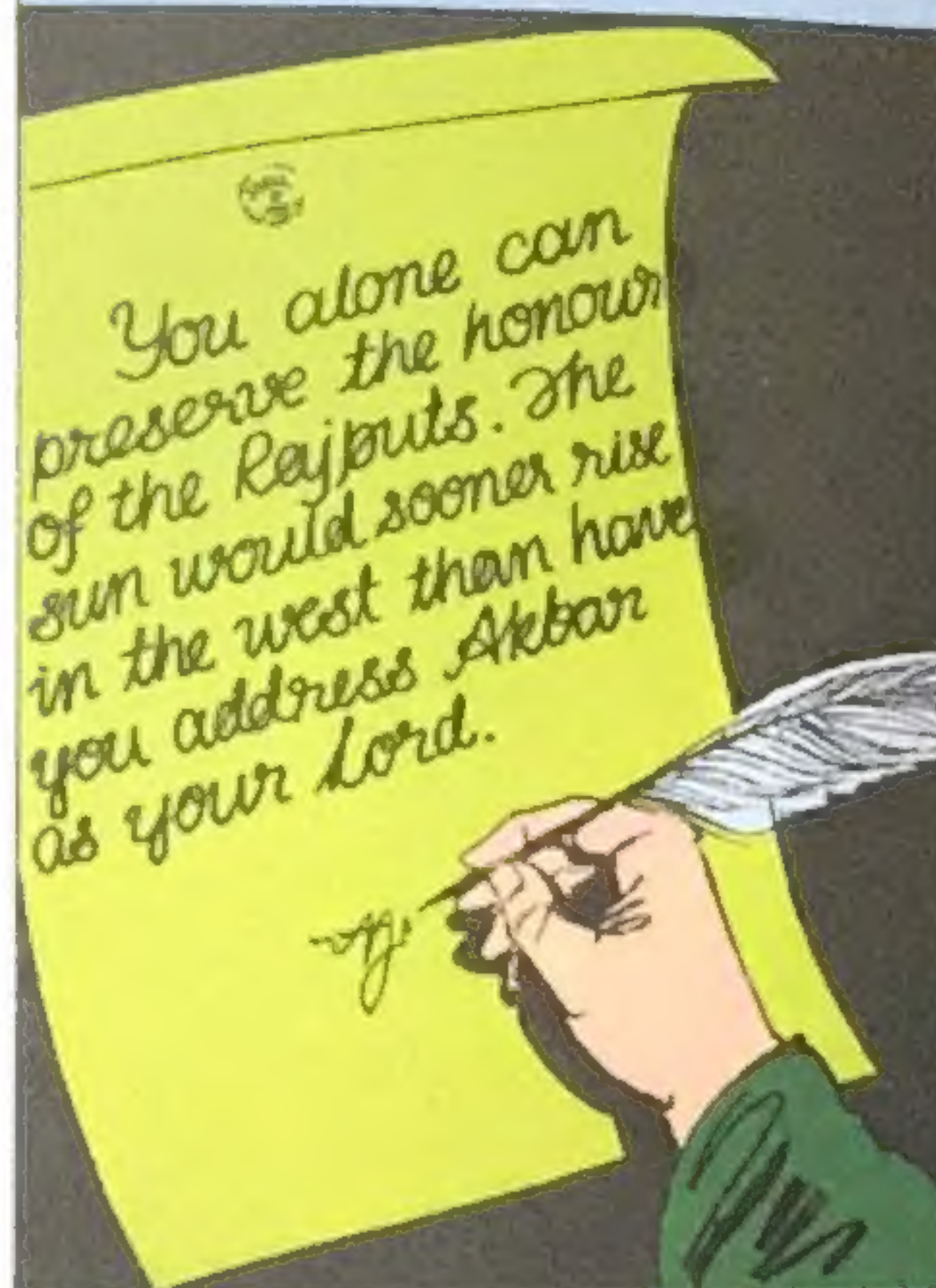
SOME TIME LATER, IN AKBAR'S COURT - AT LAST RANA PRATAP HAS DECIDED TO BOW DOWN TO ME. THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION.



PRITHVIRAJ, A RAJPUT POET IN AKBAR'S COURT, WAS A SECRET ADMIRER OF PRATAP. HE DID NOT LIKE THE NEWS.



AND POET PRITHVIRAJ SENT A LETTER TO RANA PRATAP.



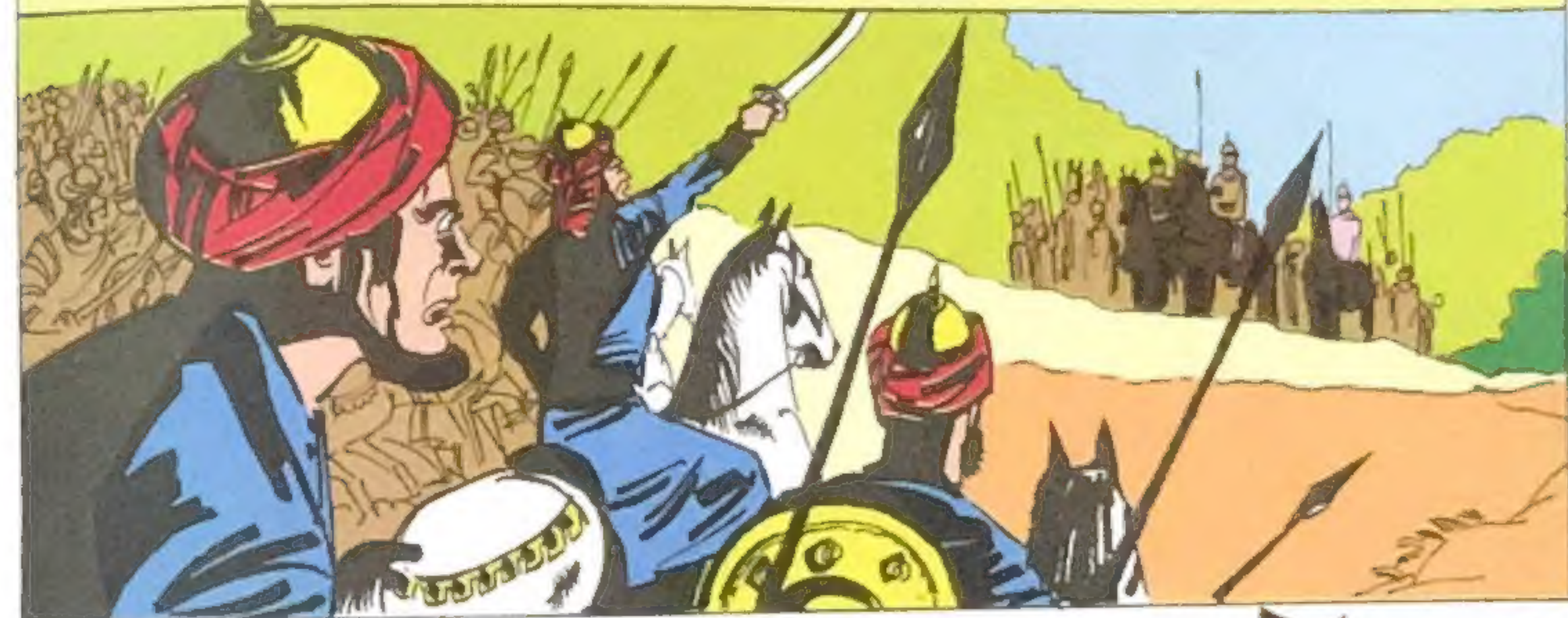
INSPIRING WORDS! I MUST WRITE TO HIM THAT THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE EAST. I WILL NEVER BOW BEFORE AKBAR.



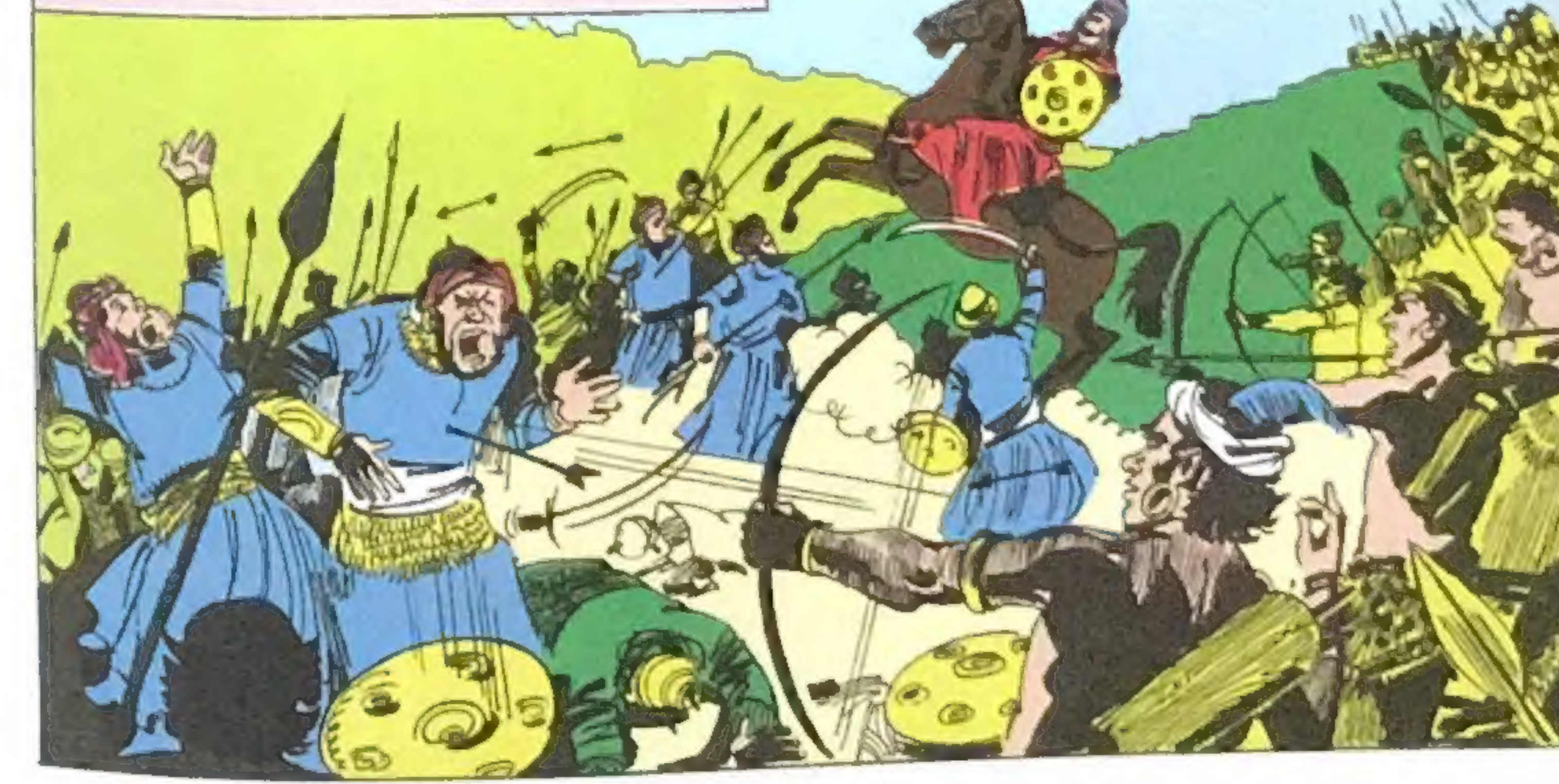
UNAWARE OF PRITHVIRAJ'S LETTER, AKBAR SENT A LARGE BAND OF SOLDIERS TO ESCORT PRATAP FROM THE JUNGLES.



WHEN RANA PRATAP REFUSED TO GO WITH THEM, THE SOLDIERS ATTACKED HIM.



SOON ALL THE RAJPUT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND PRATAP WAS ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED, WHEN A BAND OF BHIL TRIBALS ATTACKED THE MUGHALS.



THE BHILS RESCUED PRATAP AND HIS FAMILY AND CARRIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE. PRATAP WAS SAD OVER THE LOSS OF HIS SOLDIERS.

EVERYTHING IS FINISHED NOW. I CAN'T LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND.

YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE HEART, RANAJI. YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.



BUT WITHOUT AN ARMY HOW CAN I FACE THE MUGHALS?

I WILL COLLECT MY TRIBESMEN FROM THE JUNGLE AND THEN YOU CAN FIGHT AGAIN.



BUT FOR RAISING AN ARMY WE NEED MONEY AND I HAVE NONE.



ONE DAY -

I CAN'T REMAIN A BURDEN ON YOU ANY MORE. I SHALL GO AWAY FROM HERE.

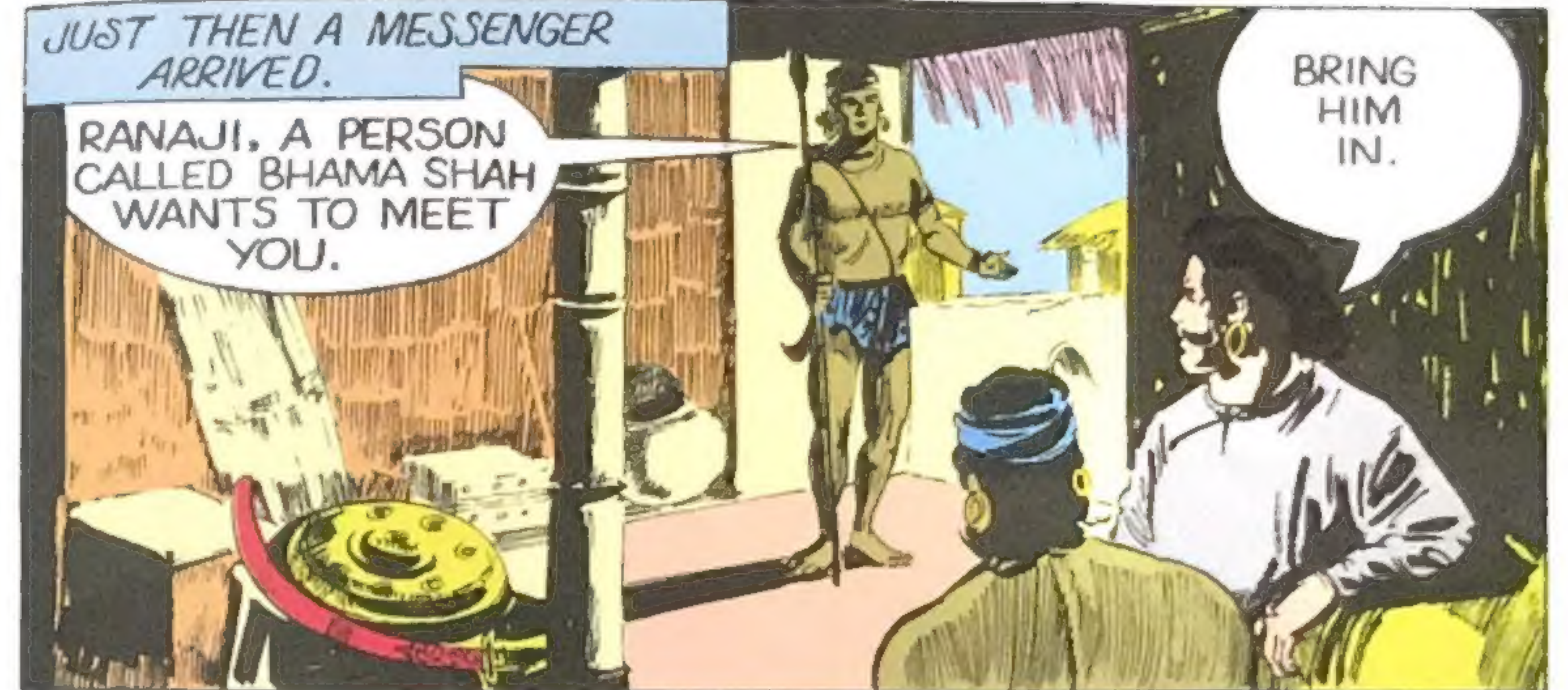
YOU ARE NOT A BURDEN, RANAJI.



JUST THEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED.

RANAJI, A PERSON CALLED BHAMA SHAH WANTS TO MEET YOU.

BRING HIM IN.



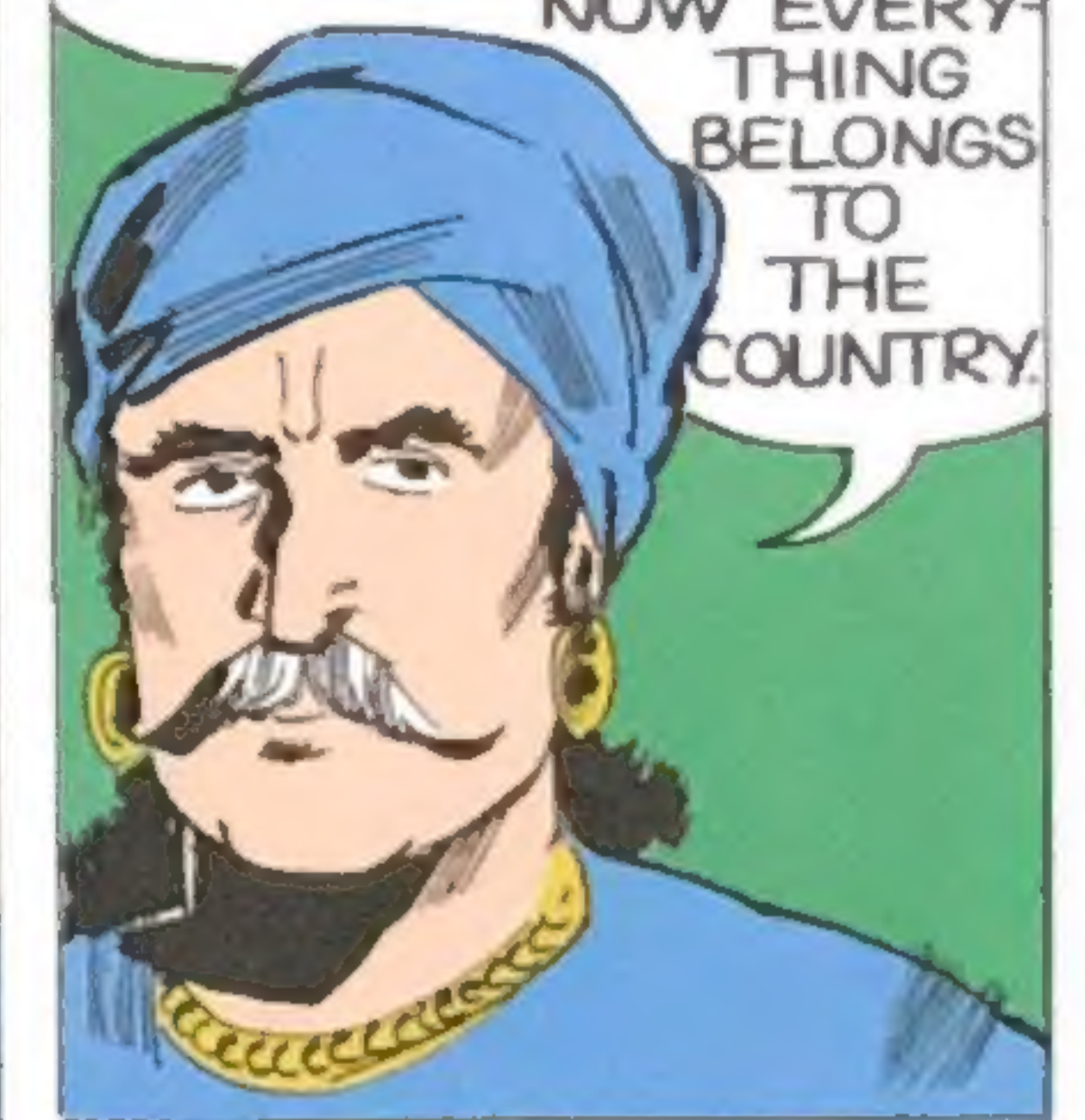
RANAJI, I HEARD THAT YOU NEED MONEY. MY WEALTH IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY.



BHAMA SHAH WAS A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN OF CHITTOR.

NOTHING REMAINS PERSONAL WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS IN TROUBLE NOW EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE COUNTRY.



WITH THE HELP OF THIS HUGE WEALTH, PRATAP RAISED A POWERFUL ARMY OF BHILS.

NOW, WE ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT THE MUGHALS AGAIN.

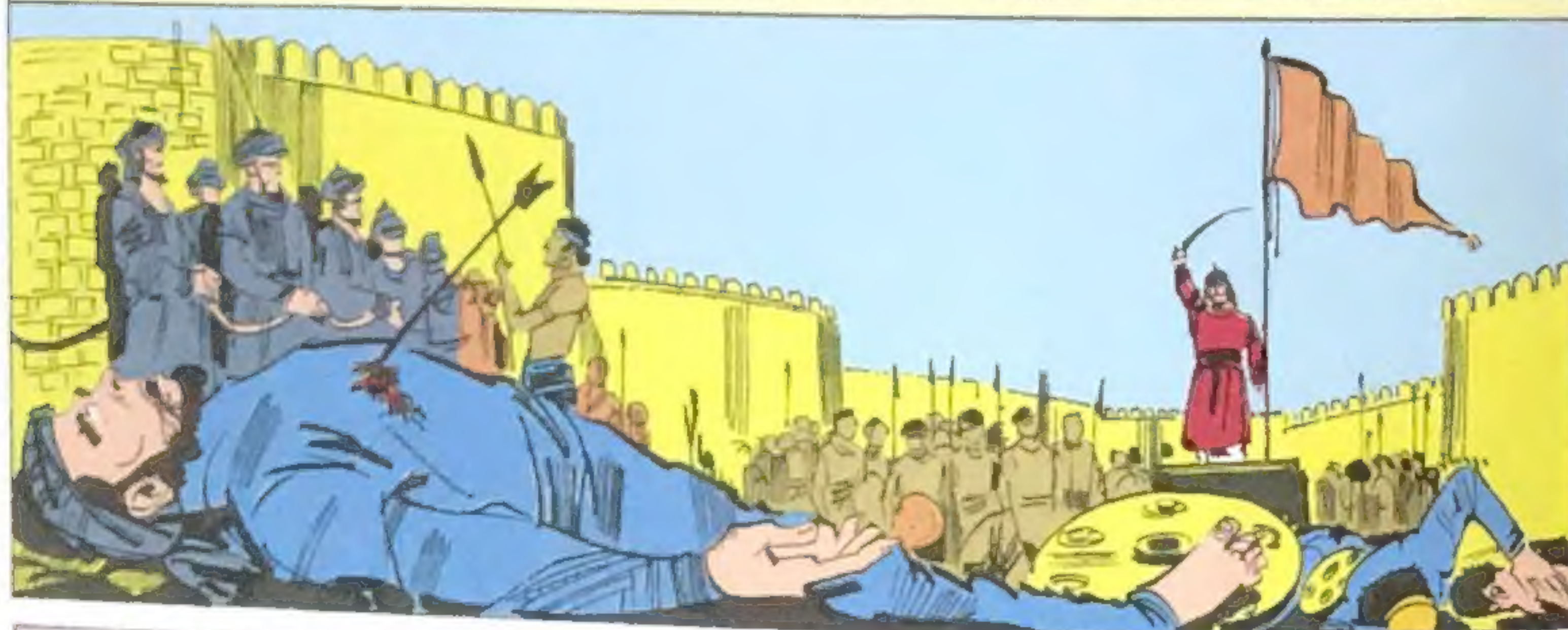
JAI CHANDI! HAR HAR MAHADEV!



PRATAP LED THE BRAVE BHILS TO MANY VICTORIES.



THE FORT OF PHINSAHRA WAS WON FROM THE MUGHALS.



THEN PRATAP SWIFTLY ATTACKED OTHER NEARBY FORTS UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION.



FINALLY RANA PRATAP MANAGED TO LIBERATE THE AREAS OF DEVAR, UDAIPUR AND KOMALMIR.



BUT CHITTOR WAS STILL OCCUPIED BY THE MUGHALS. PRATAP HAD FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOW HE WAS VERY SICK.



SOON YOU WOULD BE HEALTHY AGAIN, RANAJI!

NO, I KNOW THAT MY END HAS COME.



HOW UNLUCKY I AM THAT I COULD NOT LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND, CHITTOR.

THUS WITH HIS DREAM ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED, RANA PRATAP PASSED AWAY. TILL THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE, HE STRICTLY ADHERED TO HIS OATH. EVEN WHEN HE WAS SICK, HE DID NOT SLEEP ON A COMFORTABLE BED, BUT ON THE GROUND. THUS RANA PRATAP SET AN EXAMPLE TO LEADERS OF ALL TIMES THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO LIVE IN LUXURY WHEN THE COUNTRY SUFFERED.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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